

## Mr Vorster to retire and stand for S African presidency

John Vorster, South African Minister for the past 12 years, is retiring because of failing health, and offering himself for the presidency. At a press conference in Pretoria yesterday he also

announced that South Africa is unilaterally calling elections in Namibia in November. The delays required under United Nations proposals were not acceptable to his Government, he said.

## Namibia elections to go ahead

Nicholas Ashford  
Sept 20  
Vorster announced today that he is retiring as Prime Minister of South Africa and that South Africa will go ahead on its own elections in Namibia (South West Africa). Later Mr Vorster, the Administrator-General, said that the elections for the assembly would take place between November 20 and

his announcements will be the most profound effect on the collapse of the empire four years

Namibia decision is to lead to demands in the United Nations for a South African election. Vorster made his announcement in the Cabinet in the Union Buildings, Pretoria. He said he had a stage where his health would not allow him to fulfil his duties demanded of him but he would remain in the country. However he had a deep desire to retire and to spend his last years in the country. He had succeeded in his last act as Prime Minister, Mr Vorster said, in leaving office "with a clean conscience". When he took office in 1966, he had two aims: to improve relations between the white and black South Africans, and to bring about a peaceful settlement of the South African border with Namibia. He had succeeded in both.

Mr Vorster will remain in the country until September 23 when he will leave for his home in the Netherlands. He will be succeeded by P. W. Botha, the Minister of Labour and Dr Connie Mulder, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr Vorster's last act as Prime Minister was to announce the elections in Namibia. He said that the elections would be held in November. The United Nations had called for elections in 1975, but South Africa had refused to do so. Vorster said that the elections would be held in November, and that South Africa would be prepared to accept the results. He said that the elections would be held in a free and fair manner, and that the results would be accepted by all.



Mr Vorster after yesterday's announcement of Namibia elections: one of his last acts as Prime Minister.

hases and supplies to attack Namibia. Mr Vorster emphasized that he was leaving the door open for further negotiations with the five Western members of the Security Council, and with Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General. All options would remain open to the assembly to be elected by universal suffrage in November. It could decide to draw up a new constitution, proceed with the implementation of the Western plan or even to accept the report drawn up by Dr Waldheim.

However, Western diplomats expressed deep dismay over Mr Vorster's announcement and foresaw little scope for further talks. South Africa now faces the prospect of not only of international sanctions but of having to maintain a large military commitment in Namibia. In Windhoek, Mr Daniel Tjongsara, Swapo's deputy

chairman, dismissed Mr Vorster's announcement as "South Africa's UDI". He said Swapo would not take part in any elections under South Africa's auspices. In Lusaka, Reuters reports, senior Swapo officials said the announcement left them little option but to step up the guerrilla war. Mr Vorster said South Africa would not accept the recommendations for the partition of the territory. The size of the United Nations military force, the introduction of a United Nations police component, had of course been a major factor in the decision to call for elections. The proposal for a United Nations force of 7,500 men virtually amounted to an "occupation force".

## 'I am shocked and astonished that you should say... I have been cheating you for years'

### Mr Callaghan told Dr Kaunda he tightened sanctions

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Prime Minister has claimed that he "tightened up" Rhodesia oil sanctions between 1974 and 1976. The claim was made last year when he promised President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia that he would pursue sanctions-breakers and try to "bring the culprits to book".

"If I have evidence about sanctions-breaking that the evidence will be followed up and, if it is possible to bring the culprits to book, then that will happen", Mr James Callaghan wrote privately to Dr Kaunda in February, 1977. Excerpts from the letter became known for the first time yesterday.

Mr Callaghan, who was attempting to repair a breach in personal relations over the issue a few weeks before his government set up the Bingham inquiry, wrote to Dr Kaunda: "I am shocked and astonished that you should say... I have been cheating you for years".

that you should not only say but apparently believe that I have been cheating you for years, both as Chancellor of the Exchequer and as Foreign Secretary over the matter of oil sanctions on the grounds that I must have known what 'Shell' had been doing. On the contrary, during my two years as Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary I went to great pains to see that sanctions were maintained and indeed tightened up."

February, 1977. It was emphasized that other letters had been exchanged later. However, Mr Callaghan's unmistakable promise to prosecute offenders if possible must be seen in the context of the inquiry to be instituted: A full-scale tribunal, which might prevent successful prosecutions, would clearly further affect Britain's word in Zambia, as well as the rest of Africa, not to say in Britain itself.

It is one clear whether Dr Kaunda still thinks that Mr Callaghan, along with his predecessor Prime Ministers, cheated him. However, an article in the *Times of Zambia* yesterday suggests that he might.

## School-age faith 'in rapid decline'

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

There has been a rapid decline in the credibility of Christianity among children aged 14 since 1974, according to the results of a survey published yesterday.

Nearly a thousand children were asked questions about religion, of which four had been asked in a survey four years ago. The most striking change in the authority with which the Bible is regarded. Four years ago three quarters of the children surveyed disagreed that "The Bible is out of date". This year the proportion was only half.

The three other repeated questions also showed a substantial change against Christianity. Half believed that church services were boring (40 per cent four years ago), 52 per cent that "God helps people" (62 per cent four years ago), and 53 per cent that "God listens to prayers" (47 per cent).

On sexual behaviour, only 13 per cent thought that "sex without getting married" was definitely wrong, and 21 per cent of girls agreed that "sex without getting married is definitely right". Sex outside marriage was regarded as "OK for some but not for me" by 32 per cent of boys and 63 per cent of girls.

Attitudes to homosexuality were tougher. 43 per cent regarded it as "definitely wrong". Only 1 per cent thought it "definitely right". The portrait of religious belief contains contradictions. Asked to state which of a number of religious they belonged, 50 per cent replied "Christianity". But only 26 per cent said that they definitely believed in God. One in eight did not believe, and 62 per cent were not sure or believed "at times".

Yet general interest in religion seems considerable. Only 15 per cent "never" talked about God, and 45 per cent had done so, out of school, in the previous month. Only 22 per cent said "not at all". Half believed in unidentified flying objects, 1 per cent in the devil, 25 per cent in reincarnation, 41 per cent in ghosts and spirits, and 54 per cent in life on other planets.

## Syria opens rejectionist summit but US officials stay hopeful

From Robert Fisk  
Damascus, Sept 20

Syria, elated at the unfavourable reception given to the Camp David negotiations by Jordan and Saudi Arabia, tonight opened its own summit to undermine the agreements between Israel and Egypt.

The first conference session here was an amfoul affair. Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, described him as "The Pétain of the Arab world". President Boumediene of Algeria and Colonel Gaddafi of Libya were driven from the airport to the conference hotel in new Sheraton Hotel past banners proclaiming Damascus as "the city of rejectionism".

On the face of it, Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, will find no hint of compromise when he meets President Assad of Syria this weekend.

Indeed, Mr Vance's visit, tentatively arranged for Friday, has not been mentioned once in the Damascus newspapers or on the state radio.

South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization are taking part in the conference here together with the Libyan and Algerian leaders.

## Rhodesian troops hit Mozambique bases

Salisbury, Sept 20

Rhodesian security forces have struck black guerrilla bases inside Mozambique it was announced tonight by the Rhodesia Defence Command.

The targets were forward bases manned by guerrillas from the communist-supported Zimbabwe African National Union of Mr Robert Mugabe, the announcement said.

The chief communiqué gave no details of the raid, but stated: "Rhodesian security forces are presently engaged in self-defence operations against ZANU terrorist bases in Mozambique. These operations are not aimed at Mozambique troops or civilians."

ZANU, the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army, is the military wing of the guerrilla organization. The raid, the sixth officially acknowledged major action against guerrilla bases in neighbouring countries, was widely expected after the shooting down by guerrillas of a Rhodesian civil aircraft on September 3 although responsibility was claimed by Mr Joshua Nkomo whose guerrilla bases are in Zambia. Forty-eight people died in the crash, 10 of them being killed on the ground.

Rhodesia had admitted only one raid against ZANU bases, although commanders are thought to operate regularly across both the eastern and western borders. Earlier today

## Threat to air travel renewed

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Sept 20

French air traffic controllers decided after a meeting today to resume their work-to-rule on Friday.

Their decision arises from dissatisfaction with the concessions they have obtained, which stopped far short of their demands, and with the Transport Minister's ruling that honours which make up a large part of their income should stop.

On September 5 the controllers whose previous industrial action caused congestion at airports in Britain, decided not to organize any further action until they met the minister.

## Unal told of to Crown its' men

The Crown Agents' finance accepted Christmas gifts from the Crown Agents' men. The gifts were valued at £100,000. The Crown Agents' men are the men who are in charge of the Crown Agents' finance. They are the men who are in charge of the Crown Agents' finance. They are the men who are in charge of the Crown Agents' finance.

## BBC wants licence increased to £30

The BBC has asked the Government for permission to increase the colour television licence fee by £5 to £30 and the black-and-white fee by £3 to £12.

## Red Brigades leader jailed on arms charge

A Milan court sentenced Corrado Alunni, alleged leader of the Red Brigades terrorist movement, to 12 years' imprisonment for illegal possession of arms. He was arrested on September 13 in a Milan flat containing an arsenal of weapons and explosives. He is expected to be charged later with involvement in the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro.

## Hospital dispute

Action by hospital maintenance supervisors over pay had led to hospitals throughout Britain banning non-emergency admissions. Peace talks between the unions involved and Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, have broken down. Page 2

## Fleet Street: Fears for the survival of journalists if there is a 'battle of Gray's Inn Road'

At the conference of the Institute of Journalists.

## Iran: Shah cancels birthday celebrations after visit to earthquake scene

Language Courses: A two-page Special Report on language teaching in Britain.

## England victory

England beat Denmark 4-3 in their European championship group one match in Copenhagen. The game was a goal-fest, with England scoring three goals in the first half and Denmark scoring two in the second half. The match was a victory for England.

## TV rentals freeze

Thorn Television Rentals, the market leader, and Visionaire should freeze their charges until next April, the Price Commission recommended. The companies will have discussions with the Government before any orders are made. In future the commission wants rental companies to reflect in their prices improvements in reliability which reduce servicing costs. Page 21

## Law and order

Law and order and the protection of the citizen are covered in resolutions submitted by 190 Conservative constituency associations to the party's conference next week. Fifty-eight call for the restoration of corporal punishment, or capital punishment or both. Page 4

## St takeover

Hollingsworth, one of the department stores in London, is to be taken over by a group of businessmen. The group has accepted the offer of almost 60 per cent of the shares. Page 21

## ings up 14.2 pc

Prices rose by 14.2 per cent in Phase Three pay policy. This is well above the 10 per cent guideline. It is the Chancellor's most recent price rise. Prices went up by 7.8 per cent in the last phase. The battle with the unions. Page 21

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## HOME NEWS

## Journalists express their fears for survival if there is 'a battle in Gray's Inn Road'

From Arthur Osman

The possibility of journalists being slaughtered in a battle in Gray's Inn Road was suggested by Mr Cyril Bainbridge, president of the Institute of Journalists, at the annual conference at Oxford yesterday.

Mr Bainbridge, speaking as a private member, said that too frequently in past years journalists, particularly at *The Times* but also on other newspapers, had gone through the depressing experience of preparing a paper that did not appear. That was not through any action on their part. It was through actions, often irresponsible, on the part of one or other of the many units that formed part of a newspaper's production.

Depressing figures had been published of the numbers of copies of papers that had been lost, millions this year alone. He continued: "The newspaper industry, in Fleet Street in particular, seems to be set on a suicide course. For years it has been moving deeper into a jungle. It has lost its way and is in urgent need of rescue. It is difficult to apportion blame. There are faults on the part of management; there are faults on the part of unions.

"Often the non-appearance of a newspaper is due to union members deliberately ignoring disputes procedures that have been agreed by their own leaders. Now a great international newspaper is threatened with suspension of publication for an unspecified time—no one knows. It may be for ever. Such a situation becomes a matter of great public interest and importance."

Agreement was seriously in doubt, while the jobs of innocent employees were put at risk. Mr Joe Wade, of the National Graphical Association, adamantly refuses to nego-

nate unless the threat of suspension of publication is lifted, although other union leaders have said they are ready to talk.

"There is tremendous loyalty to *The Times* by its journalistic staff," Mr Bainbridge continued. "Many of them could earn much higher salaries elsewhere. But there are limits to which that loyalty can be stretched and the great danger in the present situation is that journalists, with the dark shadow of suspension and notice descending on them will quite naturally look elsewhere for their future."

"The tragedy is that, unlike production staff, there are fewer openings available for journalists. Some may be lost to the profession and even if the suspension was for only a limited period the paper might lose some of its talented staff. That is the situation of which I hope the management are aware. I think they are and have attempted to alleviate it to some extent by extending the period of notice. But that is only a palliative. The main threat remains.

"The kamikaze pilots of the newspaper world must be dissuaded from their suicidal tendencies before they bring about the destruction of the livelihoods of innocent witnesses of their acts."

Mr Bainbridge said he was not happy about the reference to a public inquiry into *The Times*.

The conference passed an amended motion calling for an urgent independent inquiry into the situation at *The Times*, the result of which should be made public. Its terms will be sent to the management and the various unions involved in the next few days.

Mr Christopher Underwood, a broadcaster and vice-chairman of the strong Fleet Street division of the Institute, said

journalists had over the years honoured agreements, obeyed disputes procedures and other matters largely on the gentlemanly understanding that it would come right in the end. But it had not done so, and it was unlikely that they would catch up financially. It was wrong to suppose that all Fleet Street journalists were "bitchy cats" because most of the time they were not.

The terms of the original motion by Fleet Street said the situation at *The Times* was the inevitable result of years of industrial anarchy, tacitly tolerated, with consequent anomalies in pay rates.

Miss Mary Ellen Synon, a journalist on *The Daily Telegraph*, said that by passing a resolution which said that the conference was appalled at the prospect of Britain without *The Times*, it was playing into the hands of a management that had done the wrong thing. It was essentially a matter for Lord Thomson of Fleet Street to sort out, as he had made it.

Our Labour Editor writes: London newspaper distributors yesterday added their voice to the growing chorus of anxiety about the future of *The Times* Newspapers. They predicted a "commercial disaster" unless the management is able to reach agreement with the unions on "proper disputes procedures, levels of manning and new printing technology."

All sections of the newspaper industry, publishing, wholesaling and retailing, have been increasingly bedevilled by interruptions to supplies, by shortages, and late delivery in recent years. The Federation of London Wholesale Newspaper Distributors said in a statement:

"Enormous damage has already been done to the whole trade. In addition, newspapers such as *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* ceased publication, there would be the most serious repercussions on all London wholesalers. The economics of the business are such that it is difficult to see how some firms could carry on without reducing staff. The Federation of London Wholesale Newspaper Distributors is very gravely concerned about reported developments in connection with *The Times* Newspapers, and most earnestly hopes that the necessary agreement can be made between management and all the unions involved to prevent what would otherwise be a commercial disaster."

The management of *The Times* has warned the 4,270 employees that publication of *The Times* and its supplements will be suspended from November 30 unless agreement is reached with the unions.



Royal farewell: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother made a farewell visit yesterday to HMS Ark Royal, the aircraft carrier she launched, when Queen Elizabeth, in 1950. The ship, which was in the Moray Firth, is due to retire from service this year. The Queen Mother is seen walking on the flight deck with Captain E. R. Anson.

## Supervisors' dispute curbs hospital admissions

By Christopher Thomas

Action by hospital maintenance supervisors began to bite yesterday as hospitals stopped non-emergency admissions.

Talks aimed at ending the dispute between unions and Mr David Ennis, Secretary of State for Social Services, broke down last night, and no date was fixed for another meeting. If the dispute continues hospital services might soon be in a critical state because laundry services would be reduced to a fraction of normal strength.

Some hospitals might be forced to close as early as next week. The action began on Monday and reports yesterday indicated that it was having a rapidly worsening impact. Thirty hospitals in West York-

shire and Humberside restricted routine admissions yesterday and handled only emergencies. The regional health authority said linen supplies had been severely reduced because of a breakdown in laundry machines.

All non-emergency admissions have been stopped within Torbay health district. In the North-east many hospitals reported yesterday that they would accept only emergency cases.

The unions maintain that about 600 maintenance supervisors on the lower rates of pay earn less than the people they supervise as a result of new bonuses to craftsmen. More senior supervisors are taking action in sympathy, thus involving a total of 2,500 people.

## Union is stopped advertising among military

Continued from page 1

that the advertisement had been accepted until he read about it in *The Times*.

He quickly referred the matter to military officials and, apparently with Mr Mulley's consent was told to reject the advertisement. The union is now considering whether to take legal action to recover the costs of preparing the advertisement.

The advertisement was accepted by a clerk at *Soldier* when the magazine was without an advertising manager. The ministry said yesterday that all advertisements were subject to editorial approval, and refused to explain why the ASTMS advertisement was rejected. "We do not have to give a reason," an official said. "It is up to the editor."

Mr Mulley apologized to the union because the advertisement was rejected.

He pointed out that all advertisements were subject to editorial approval and that publishers reserved the right not to publish, whether or not an order had been accepted.

Twenty unions representing about 700,000 white and blue collar civil servants have made their claim in writing to Mr Mulley to represent the Armed Forces, in the unlikely event of its being decided to grant recruitment facilities to unions. The move is largely in response to pressure from the ASTMS to represent officers and senior NCOs. The grades that the ASTMS is interested in have been claimed by the middle-management Society of Civil and Public Servants, one of the biggest Civil Service unions.

The banned ASTMS advertisement said: "These unions for Service personnel operate in Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark. Norway has organized for officers and other ranks" (conscripts are excluded). In West Germany all ranks may belong to special branches of existing trade unions which are able to bargain about pay, welfare and accommodation."

Mr Stanley Davison, assistant general secretary of the ASTMS, said last night: "We have declared ourselves to be the appropriate union for senior NCOs and commissioned ranks. Many of the people we seek to attract would be looking for middle-management jobs in civilian life when they leave the Services, and we would be the appropriate union to represent them."

"Instead of pay and conditions of the Armed Forces being determined by a review body, why should they not be determined by the normal collective bargaining process? We do not envisage that trade union membership would in any way interfere with the disciplinary code."

## £30 colour licence is sought by the BBC

By Kenneth Gossling

The Government has been asked by the BBC to increase the colour television licence fee to £30 and that for black-and-white to £12. Increases of £9 and £3 respectively.

In a letter to the Home Secretary, Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC, asked for the increases to be implemented as soon as possible. The last increase in the colour fee, from £18 to £21, took place in the summer of last year. Provided inflation does not worsen, the fees could be set at the new level for three years.

It will be a main plank of the BBC's case that the licence should run for three years. In order to make what it calls "decisions" the BBC has said that a board of governors needs to estimate what its revenue will be over several years.

Mr Ian Trethowan, Director-General of the BBC, said: "The corporation will be approaching the limit of its £30m borrowing powers by next March. The chairman has indicated that the BBC can survive to the end of this year on the present licence figures."

Mr Trethowan said: "We are already in the red, and the BBC is into deficit. The bigger the licence increase has to be to allow us to pay off our debts. Now that the prospect of an immediate election is out of the way, we are therefore seeking a licence increase as soon as possible."

"We need more money to make better programmes, we need to replace repeats and American purchases by work made in our own studios, we need to step up the modernizing of our plant and, above all, we need to sort out the tangled mess of our licence fees. They have been forced by three years of incomes policy."

Mr Trethowan said that the BBC had been told by the Government that it would be expected to keep within the 5 per cent guidelines. The corporation had therefore applied for a special case under provisions in the White Paper, *Winning the Battle Against Inflation*.

The BBC's argument, Mr Trethowan said, went back to the start of pay policy in 1975, when monthly staff were caught on the wrong side of the line. A recent award had reduced some ground for operational staff, but little for management, production and editorial grades.

Another issue involving the BBC that was affected by the postponement of the election was the response to a *White Paper* on the media. A report, *With Immediate Political Uncertainty* of the way, discussions could be held.

The BBC remained "vehemently opposed" to new bureaucratic service management boards with outsiders appointed by the Government.

"On the other hand, we recognize the right of Parliament to be concerned about how the BBC discharges its huge responsibility to the public, and the board of governors is actively considering how it might more clearly fulfil its own role without damaging the day-to-day management of the BBC," Mr Trethowan said.

Kreze TV rentals, page 21

## Mr Mason in new talk with Ulster parties

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

In a new effort to break the protracted political deadlock in Northern Ireland the Government has begun fresh talks with Ulster's main parties aimed at achieving an agreed form of devolved administration.

Over the next few weeks Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State, and his senior policy advisers are expected to meet delegations from each of the parties. No initiative is expected from the Government beyond the five-point plan, including a tier of local government, under which a seat assembly as an upper tier of local government, which was proposed nearly a year ago.

Among political observers in Belfast and Dublin there is little optimism that the talks will bridge the wide gap between the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Unionist groups.

However, senior British officials remain hopeful that the shared antagonism to the present form of direct rule among politicians of all opinions may provoke the kind of compromise necessary. It is frequently noted at Stormont castle that leading local politicians face the possibility of fading from the public eye if they cannot reach some form of agreement.

It is understood that Mr Mason will invite the parties to put forward ideas for a future administration acceptable to Westminster. Only the

Democratic Unionists, led by the Rev Ian Paisley have so indicated that they have made public soon.

Mr Mason had a four-hour meeting this week with six members of the SDLP, a less significant session, the smaller Northern Ireland Labour Party.

Meetings with the other parties are planned before the end of next month, but the no sign yet that differences be resolved sufficiently to enable inter-party discussions to begin again.

The last round of negotiations broke down early last year. British officials re-admitted that the cause was a radio interview in January by Mr Jack Lynch, the Irish Minister, in which he called for Britain to set a date for withdrawal from Ulster.

Dublin government officials maintain that the British initiative had collapsed because of the broad-based opposition to renewed demands for British withdrawal, but time from British rather Irish sources. The calls, particularly by Mr John P. the deputy Liberal leader known to have angered Mr Mason. He remains convinced that the suggestion is unwise and fraught with danger bloodshed on a scale witnessed in Northern Ireland or the republic.

## Conservatives are wary of revived assembly idea

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Conservative leaders are observing with interest government plans to resurrect the idea of a Northern Ireland assembly which had been shelved in expectation of a general election.

The Tories had in mind a different approach if an election had been held and they had been returned to power, although there is no suggestion of a break in the bipartisan policy.

Mr Airey Neave, the Conservative spokesman, and his Shadow Cabinet colleagues believe that a revival of the assembly would be a good idea, but that it might trip over the thorny question of sharing power.

The Conservatives, if returned to office, intended to concentrate on security and law, and set up an independent inquiry into local government in Ulster with the intention of establishing elected regional councils at a tier above the district councils.

Shadow ministers involved in the drafting of the Conservative manifesto believed that any inquiry would have lasted several months and that the findings would have taken probably two years to implement. But the essential aim was not only to test the reactions of the politicians but to dig deeper and find the response of the people they represent.

The Conservatives do not disregard the importance of achieving the goal of an assembly, but they fear that it might run to ground in sectarian differences over the principle of power-sharing.

Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State, and Mr Neave, are to meet next month.

Security is likely to be high on the agenda and some senior Tories were suggesting last

night that it was only sustained Opposition that the Government had produced. The Special Air Service Regiment in Ulster. In the meantime, the are making strenuous to patch up any misunderstandings with the Official Unionists. Privately, they are not happy with the made by the Official Unionists. A former Irish minister, Heath government, who in a speech in Belfast weeks ago that there can be no question of a real Stormont under a Conservative government.

While he was no more stating the official Conservative line, senior Tories believe that Mr Van Stratten is not a member of the Cabinet, was not helping policy by emphasizing its ferocity.

The Ulster Unionists attend the Conservative conference in Brighton.

Tory leaders are also important, a speech by Mr Harry West, the Official Unionist, was not widely reported. He said on September 19: "Another thing that they have been about us is that we reestablish what they call 'old Stormont'. I doubt that to many nearly any kind of would seem better at present, which is a narrow clique of law bureaucrats."

"But I really do think that people anywhere, that the desirable result of this by a better statement can be brought any way to the clock. We that history just does that way."

Tory Conference agreed

## 'Verdict could be suicide'

Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman and editor-in-chief of Times Newspapers Ltd, said at the institute's annual conference dinner last night that if the majority of newspaper employees allowed a minority to control "the insanity that goes on almost every night, then the verdict of the court must be death by suicide."

He said: "I want to make life in New Printing House square, creative, happy, efficient, and profitable for everybody. I want to see an end to these crippling restrictive and unproductive ways."

Sir Denis paid tribute to the

loyalty of the 500 journalists employed by Times Newspapers, but said it was no good for any one group of employees to say "well, teacher, it wasn't me."

The issue was a collective one, and the challenge was how to persuade 4,000 employees that they had a responsibility to each other and not to their own particular section. Sir Denis said: "It is certainly one of the defects of my life that I have not in the 30 years I have been in Fleet Street been able to bring about at the newspapers that I control a corporate feeling that the survival of that newspaper is the responsibility of each individual."

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DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**ABBEY NATIONAL BONDSHARES**

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen
Sun rises: 6.44 am	6.44 am
Sun sets: 7.2 pm	7.2 pm
Moon rises: 12.1 pm	12.1 pm
Moon sets: 9.40 pm	9.40 pm
Last quarter: September 24	
Lighting on: 7.32 pm to 6.16 am	
High water: London Bridge, 5.28 am, 7.3m (23.6ft); 5.41 pm, 7.3m (23.6ft); Avonmouth, 10.54 am, 12.3m (42.0ft); 11.16 pm, 12.4m (40.8ft); Dover, 5.30 am, 8.5m (28.2ft); 2.48 pm, 6.5m (21.4ft); Hull, 9.39 am, 7.4m (24.1ft); 1.5 am, 8.2m (27.0ft); Liverpool, 2.40 am, 9.3m (30.4ft); 3.1 pm, 8.9m (29.2ft).	
A large anticyclone will persist over Britain while troughs of low pressure cross N Scotland.	
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:	
London, East Anglia, E Midlands, S England, Wales: Dry, heavy sun; wind, mainly NW, light; max temp 20°C (68°F).	
Channel Islands: Dry, mainly sunny; wind, variable light; max temp 19°C (66°F).	
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, patchy hill fog; wind, SW, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).	
Central N, NE England, Borders:	
WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY	
London: Temp. max 7 am to 7 pm, 20°C (68°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 70%.	
Edinburgh: Temp. max 7 am to 7 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 70%.	
Dundee: Temp. max 7 am to 7 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 70%.	
Aberdeen: Temp. max 7 am to 7 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 70%.	

At the resorts	24 hours to 6 pm, Sept 21
Sun rises	6.44 am
Sun sets	7.2 pm
Moon rises	12.1 pm
Moon sets	9.40 pm
High water	5.28 am, 7.3m (23.6ft); 5.41 pm, 7.3m (23.6ft); Avonmouth, 10.54 am, 12.3m (42.0ft); 11.16 pm, 12.4m (40.8ft); Dover, 5.30 am, 8.5m (28.2ft); 2.48 pm, 6.5m (21.4ft); Hull, 9.39 am, 7.4m (24.1ft); 1.5 am, 8.2m (27.0ft); Liverpool, 2.40 am, 9.3m (30.4ft); 3.1 pm, 8.9m (29.2ft).
Low water	1.16 am, 1.16 am; 1.16 pm, 1.16 pm; 1.16 pm, 1.16 pm; 1.16 pm, 1.16 pm.
Forecast	Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, E Midlands, S England, Wales: Dry, heavy sun; wind, mainly NW, light; max temp 20°C (68°F).

Overseas selling prices	Sept 20
Canada, US dollar	1.31
France, franc	6.55
Germany, DM	3.36
Italy, lire	1936
Japan, yen	163
Netherlands, guilder	2.20
Spain, peseta	166.6
Sweden, krona	4.66
Switzerland, franc	2.00
UK, sterling	1.00

سكول من لايمل



# Two men were watching a mechanical excavator on a building site.

There are two ways to regard technological development. As a threat. Or as a promise.

Every invention from the wheel to the steam engine created the same dilemma.

But it's only by exploiting the promise of each that man has managed to improve his lot.

Computer technology has given man more time to create, and

released him from the day-to-day tasks that limit his self-fulfilment.

**"If it wasn't for that machine," said one, "twelve men with shovels could be doing that job."**

We ourselves are very heavy users of this technology, ranging from golf-ball typewriters to ink-jet printers to small and large computers, so we're more aware than most of that age-old dilemma: threat or promise.

**"Yes," replied the other, "and if it wasn't for your twelve shovels, two hundred men with teaspoons could be doing that job."**

Yet during 27 years in the UK our workforce has increased from six to 15,000. And during those 27 years not a single person has been laid off, not a single day has been lost through strikes.

Throughout Britain, electronic technology has shortened queues. Streamlined efficiency. Boosted exports.

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To treat technology as a threat would halt progress. As a promise, it makes tomorrow look a lot brighter.

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## HOME NEWS

## Counsel tells of Christmas gifts to members of Crown Agents

While the Crown Agents were lending millions to the Stern property companies, members of their finance department were accepting Christmas gifts from Mr William Stern himself, the tribunal investigating the Agents' £200m losses was told yesterday.

Mr Robert Gatehouse, QC, for the tribunal, said the four members of the finance department who were given gifts were Mr Allan Challis, the finance director until 1973; Mr Bernard Wheatley, the former sterling money market manager, who died in July last year; Mr Norman Hewins and Mr A. J. Blundell.

Mr Gatehouse said the gift, that caused him most concern, was in Christmas 1972, when Mr Challis was given a silver tea set valued by Mr Stern at more than £400.

Mr Challis did not return it but wrote to Mr Stern telling him politely not to do it again in so generous a fashion, explaining that officials in the public service were generally not supposed to accept gifts from those with whom they had a business relationship.

Mr Hewins, at Christmas, 1972, received a gold or silver desk set. He had said he discussed the present with Mr Challis but decided not to return it. Instead he also wrote to Mr Stern asking him not to repeat it.

Mr Blundell received gifts of a leather briefcase and a gold pen and pencil, and he wrote "thank you" letters.

Mr Gatehouse said that in addition one other member of the agents staff received a Christmas gift from Mr Stern, but he took the sensible course of reporting it to the director of personnel.

The official view was that gifts should be reported in the heads of departments should report any gifts they received to directors and that directors should report direct to the Crown Agents.

Mr Gatehouse added: "It may be that anybody who has been in the Crown service for any length of time would know exactly what he had to do in the case of anything more than a mere present. Such rules as there were seemed to have been followed more in the breach than the observance."

Earlier, Mr Gatehouse outlined the relationship that grew up between Mr Stern's companies and the Agents. He said the first important contact was in June 1972, when Mr Stern was anxious to obtain a large dollar loan because he had just contracted to buy an extremely large house-building company in Israel. He went to the Crown Agents whom he regarded as natural lenders.

He was introduced to Mr Hewins, at that time the head of banking, and later to Mr Wheatley, to discuss details. A £1m unsecured loan was made, being officially authorised on July 17, 1972, and August 16, 1972, three tranches of £1m were lent to Willstar, the Stern Group's holding company, totalling £3m. That, as well as the sterling loan, was unsecured and with-

out any authority from the Agents' credit committee. In January, 1973, Stern family holdings were added to the companies' approved list, when the £3m loan was approved. By then the loan had been made.

Mr Gatehouse added that the ritual might want to know who authorized the growing loans granted thereafter and the circumstances they were authorized.

He continued: "One of the problems is that when the property bubble burst it seems to have been assumed by the finance department of the Agents that the agents were expected to support the Stern Group."

Those in the finance department who were concerned, primarily Mr Hewins, then acting director of finance, on doubt took the view that they were so deeply involved with the Stern Group, to the extent of £22m, that if they allowed Stern to sink it would inevitably bring down the whole of the Crown Agents' organization. There would have been a

huge loss of confidence on the part of the agents' principals. "A run on the bank" by principals demanding the withdrawal of their deposits.

That, Mr Gatehouse said, was undoubtedly, early in 1974, that support for the Stern companies was essential, and they poured more than £16m into those companies to keep them afloat.

Mr Gatehouse said: "Eventually it proved useless. The Stern companies were in liquidation. They would not know the extent of the eventual dividends paid, but the present estimated loss was £41.2m, although it may have dropped to £200,000."

Mr Gatehouse went on to describe the losses involved in the sale of a valuable town centre site at Epsom, Surrey, jointly owned by the Crown Agents. That, he said, had become something of a "hot potato". There had been a long and bitter dispute between the Crown Agents and the Epsom Development Corporation over the site.

Mr Stern got to hear about the proposed sale, and through one of his "subsidiary" companies, Bradley House, he offered to buy the site for £2.5m, the best offer the agents received.

Contrary to Mr Stern's earlier statement that he was not going to look to the Crown Agents to finance the deal, he did so. The purchase price rose to £2.25m, and a deposit of £222,500 was sent to Mr Stern.

Then the agents, "lured" into the deal, simply because they did not require payment of that substantial sum until December 31, 1973. They did secure that loan by a charge on the property. At the same time they lent him a further £1,575,000 on the same terms and security.

Then, when the site came for Mr Stern's company to pay the £2.5m, Mr Gatehouse said, Mr Stern persuaded Mr Hewins to lend him £5.5m.

The property was unsecured. The loan was not secured and was not repaid, and apparently was the deposit of £222,500 and the further £1,575,000.

It may be the end, he said, rather than a gross deviation of duty. Counsel said, "It is a look at the face of it, that there was something very wrong in allowing the loan to be unsecured and losing £5.5m. As may in the end turn out to be a very unfortunate mistake, perhaps an error of judgment."

Mr Gatehouse described the results by the Crown Agents of "confident letters" as a most cautious piece of self-defence. Those letters were given to effect loans from the money market for English and Continental Property Company.

It was likely that the original letters would be regarded as hindering inquiry but not legally. They were intended to convey the assurance that the Crown Agents would see that loans were repaid.

At least 171 of those letters were given to a total value of £37m, although they were not all outstanding at any one time. It would be for the Crown Agents to investigate how confident letters originated, and who drafted them.

The hearing continues today.

## 60 per cent claim by million workers

By Paul Routledge

Union leaders of more than a million manufacturing workers yesterday agreed unanimously on a pay claim that would increase the local government annual bill by an estimated 60 per cent. There have been warnings of "contamination" if the demand is not substantially met.

While the three unions involved were discussing the claim, which the Government regards as a critical test of its income policy, Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, took the unusual step of making public the text of a correspondence on wages with Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe).

In response to a union request for exemption from the 5 per cent limit for the lower-paid, the minister says there is no evidence to support the accusation levelled against the Cabinet of insincerity about the plight of the lower-paid, and adds: "In the Government's view, levels of pay and increases in them are best left for settlement by negotiation, subject to the guidelines in the White Paper and reinforced by existing statutory provisions."

The full claim agreed by leaders of Nupe, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the General and Municipal Workers' Union is for a minimum of 250,000, compared with the present £42.40, a clause making the new rates inflation-proof, a 35-hour week, a reduction of 10 per cent of the grading structure, and four weeks' annual holiday.

The unions will add in their submission that the claim is for the immediate present, not in stages. Mr Ronald Keating, general secretary of Nupe, after the talks, said: "No one should be under any illusion about the determination of the unions to wage a campaign behind the claim. We are serious and we will fight everything we have done back."

Similar claims for hospital workers, ambulance men and water industry employees are due in the coming months.

Another test of the pay restraint policy comes today when Ford Motor replies to a claim for £20 a week for 55,000 hourly-paid manual workers. The company attacked the 10 per cent pay limit last autumn, and ministers feel that a rejection would be a serious blow to the credibility of the new, lower limit from which the anti-inflation strategy might not recover.

The unions point to Ford's forecast profits of £30m this year. The same source says that the company's decision to publish and examination results for individual schools.

Figures issued by Mr Horder yesterday show that Sheffield schools have been holding their own on A-level results. Grant Blackman, general secretary of the teachers' union, said: "We have a very good record on A-level results. Our schools are doing well. We are not in any danger of being labelled as a 'black hole' in the system."

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## Conflict over aid for under-fives criticized

By Penny Symon

There is no clearly stated government policy on expenditure for the under-five age group, and the number of different programmes involved in services for them means there are always conflicting priorities operating, the Central Policy Review Staff says in a report published yesterday.

The report says that in 1976 about £830m of public money was spent on the health, education and social services for children under five but there was little indication of any underlying principle governing the way in which the expenditure was distributed.

"One government department may try to give high priority to its services for the under-fives; another will effectively give it no priority at all, and at a local level the balances show up startlingly," the report says.

"The Government needs to take a fundamental look at what services are now provided for young children, and what they should be."

The report says that an estimated 900,000 children under five have working mothers. Local authority day nurseries and registered childminders provide only about 130,000 full-time and part-time places.

The report's recommendations would meet the need for improved services in day care and nursery education for the under-fives: after-

school and holiday care for those between five and ten; and advisory and support services for their parents.

"At present the Government is spending very large sums of money on support and assistance for older children, but services for young children have been neglected and even curtailed. They do not, as yet, have any high political priority, and their needs tend to be regarded as optional extras in the main programmes."

The report recommends the retention of existing services, but the development of a much higher degree of coordination.

"At present a great deal of experiment and improvisation goes into the patchwork provision for young children, but the capacity of the system to develop without additional resources is small. The development of a comprehensive and coordinated service will take time and patience, and can be introduced only as resources are available. With that proviso of an earmarked sum for capital and current expenditure rising to, say, £150m a year over two to three years, initially for a five-year period, could well transform the provision of services for young children and make a substantial difference to the lives of a very large number of families."

Services for Young Children with Working Mothers (Stationery Office, £2.75).

## Front plans 'deliberate' march into East End

By Robert Parker

The National Front is to march into the heart of the East End of London on Sunday, the day during which the Anti-Nazi League expects thousands of people to take part in a anti-racist march from Hyde Park Corner to Brighton for a carnival.

On the face of it, that is to say the formal agenda, the party leaders are not in for a rubbing from the disconcerted racialists.

When the conference arrangements were explained at a press conference at Conservative Central Office yesterday, Sir Charles Johnston, chairman of the Anti-Nazi League, said: "The National Front, denied that the resolutions chosen for debate were either bland or andy, he thought there would be plenty of controversy."

But when pushed to name the motions he challenged the party line, he and Mr Angus Mande, a deputy chairman of the party and chairman of the Conservative Research Department, could produce only one motion, that on education.

That motion, to be moved by Mr T. R. Chadman, from the marginal constituency of Ashfield, states that "the central tenet of Conservative education policy must be an acceptance of comprehensive, secondary schools and a desire to raise their standards to those of their counterparts in the private sector."

Mr Mande was asked whether Mr Rhodes, the former headmaster who is MP for Brent, North, and a front-bench spokesman on education, who has recently attacked the achievements of the comprehen-

## Rebels thin on the ground at Tory conference

By George Clark

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's political motto, "the unexpected always happens", applies in the Conservative Party annual conference in Brighton from October 10 to 13 this year, it should be a lively and controversial week for constituency representatives.

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Mr Mande was asked whether Mr Rhodes, the former headmaster who is MP for Brent, North, and a front-bench spokesman on education, who has recently attacked the achievements of the comprehen-

sives in the Manchester area, would speak in the debate. Mrs Thatcher said she would not take part, when the principal spokesman, Mr Norman St John Stevas, was down to reply to the debate.

The attempt to offer a disappointing prospect for these expecting controversy, but Sir Charles explained that most of the constituency motions were submitted when there was a general election, and that it would be an autumn election and that the conference might have to be a brief election rally.

For the same reason, there was little information available about the fringe meetings, which usually provide the platform for speakers who are out of the party official policy. Some asked whether Mr Edward Heath, the former party leader, would be intervening in any debate.

Sir Charles said Mr Heath would certainly be at Brighton, and would be speaking at one of the fringe meetings on the difficulties of youth. "We hope to have a number of speakers, but they will be attending the conference," he said.

Mr Reg Prentice, the former Labour Cabinet minister who has moved over to the Conservatives, said he had so far failed to secure a nomination as a Conservative parliamentary candidate, will be speaking at one of the fringe meetings.

Mrs Thatcher will address the party conference, and will speak in private on the eve of the conference, and her main rallying speech, in advance of a general election which could come in December if the Government

is defeated on the Queen's Speech, will be made at 3 pm on Friday, October 13.

Sir Charles, saying that those who thought there would be "bell on" would be disappointed. He had been one of those who believed the headlines, and thought that the conference would be off. But it was now being held, and it would be a good one.

Even a Prime Minister as unpopular as Mrs Thatcher, he said, "it is going to be a great conference for us, a fitting prelude to the election of a Conservative government dedicated to 'the well-being of all the people'."

According to the motions submitted by constituency associations, the most burning issue is again law and order, and the protection of the citizen. On that issue 190 constituency associations submitted resolutions. 85 of them called for either the restoration of corporal punishment or capital punishment, or both.

The motion to be debated from the Danabronth, East, constituency association, may be the subject of amendments that will bring the issue of capital punishment to the fore.

Other issues most worrying to the party are law and order, the economy, and taxation (112 motions), defence (37), education (85), free enterprise and industry (50), employment and industrial relations (74), health and social services (61), environment and local government (58), homes and land (49), constitutional matters (40), Rhodesia (39) party

## Sanction-breaking report 'was sent to No 10'

By David Spaher

Mozambique associate in this way to South Africa, a "suspicious" South African customer was replaced in South Africa by deliveries from Shell BP depot to Total's customers.

Mr Frank McFadden, a managing director of Shell, and Mr R. B. Dammert, deputy chairman and managing director of BP, if it was still possible for British ministers to say quite truthfully that the British company was supplying oil to Rhodesia.

Mr McFadden replied, the report goes on, that while the position was legally sound, the assumed propriety of the exchange arrangement between Shell BP South Africa and Total (South Africa), and substantial quantities of "French" oil were of course going into Rhodesia, though officially consigned from Mozambique to South African customers of Shell BP.

Lord Thomson said an BBC television last night that he was in favour of all secret Cabinet papers concerning Rhodesia being published. Asked if Sir Harold Wilson knew everything that was going on, he replied: "Yes, of course. That comes out very clearly in the Bingham report."

Lord Thomson said he thought there was no discrepancy between what he said and what Sir Harold Wilson said in his statements on the subject.

Owen assurance: Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, confirmed that the sanctions breaking culprits would be brought to book, as Mr James Callaghan had promised President Kaunda of Zambia, when he met the Prime Minister yesterday, to discuss policy on oil sanctions.

Mr Robert Hughes, Labour MP for Aberdeen, North, a member of the delegation, said after the meeting that Britain's Rhodesia policy had operated on "the basis that we did not mean what we said."

Miss Joan Lessor, Labour MP for Birmmham, said: "The horror of the Bingham report is that the British oil companies were directly involved and the British Government had knowledge."

The delegation delivered a letter signed by leading trade unionists and other supporters urging the Government "to go to the Government and demand that the South African Government that they will stop all supplies of oil from South Africa to Rhodesia. Should such an assurance not be forthcoming, immediate steps should be taken at the United Nations to extend oil sanctions against Rhodesia to cover South Africa."

## MP fears cover-up by tribunal

By George Clark

A tribunal of inquiry into the breaking of oil sanctions might be a "cover-up" operation, which would protect guilty people from prosecution, Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham, West, and chairman of a subcommittee of the Commons Expenditure Committee which last year requested the rule of the Civil Service, said yesterday.

He said that what was required was a straight forward investigation by the police and prosecution of anyone believed to have committed a crime.

In advance of the revelations of sanctions-breaking, the committee had questioned the Civil Service and government practice of ensuring that papers should be kept secret, and decisions of ministers of previous administrations should not be shown to the succeeding government.

The committee recommended that the Minister should consult Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, to get an agreed change of the rule so that "ministers in ascending" administrations should not be bound by previous papers, but apparently no agreement has been reached.

A government statement is expected soon about the production of the documents to produce what Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has called the "political explanation" for a deception that cost the tax-payers £200m.

Mr John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, who was a minister in Mr Heath's Cabinet, said in an interview with the "Conservative" ministers knew that oil was getting through to Rhodesia they did not know about the previous government's scheme to disguise the fact.

Mr Davies thought it was that issue that had been brought into the open by the Bingham report, and people were rightly concerned about it. Mr Wilson, Prime Minister, at the time, could have made a clean breast of it and could have said that the sanctions could not be truly effective. They did not do that. We can infer why," Mr Davies continued.

When asked why the incoming government did not disclose what was going on, Mr Davies replied: "We had had no part of it. We were not involved. We simply found ourselves involved in continuing an arrangement of supply which we knew was taking place to South Africa."

## Call for Tories to remove spokesman on education

By Diana Geddes

A call to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, to remove Mr Rhodesia, a spokesman on education, was made yesterday by Mr John Gray, last year's president of the National Union of Teachers.

Mr Gray, who is headmaster of Croydon East comprehensive school, Stockport, said he did not expect removal from office to silence Mr Boyson, but Mr Thatcher had regard for standards of debate in the House, and would not tolerate designation of schools that were doing a good educational job.

Speaking to the Bishop Auckland and District local association of the NUT, Mr Gray said that probably the greatest damage had been done by Mr Boyson's decision to compare the A-level results of two authorities as dissimilar as Trafford and Manchester.

But to extend that treatment to named schools within Manchester, backed up with advice to parents to spurn the schools with the lowest success level, in his view, was to go to the limits of irresponsibility.

Mr Peter Horton, chairman of Sheffield Education Committee, also deplored Mr Boy-

## Naval helicopter crew rescued

By George Clark

The crew of a naval Wessex 111 helicopter were rescued yesterday by an RAF helicopter after the Wessex had crashed in the sea 15 miles north of Rye, East Sussex.

On board the Wessex were Lieutenant Tony Williams, Lieutenant Paul McKay, and Midshipman Nigel Eves and Bruce Ross.

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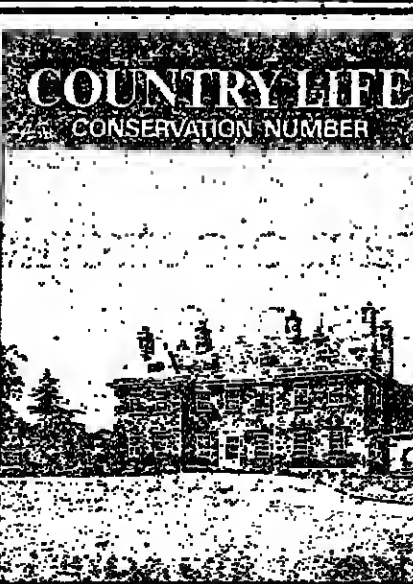
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**COUNTRY LIFE**  
CONSERVATION NUMBER



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**PRESERVATION OF YORK AND CHESTER**  
John Cornforth writes about the conservation policies introduced in the historic towns of York and Chester, and relates them to modern needs.

**BACK FROM THE BRINK**  
David Tomlinson describes how the interest of a US naval captain has helped save the tule elk of North America from extinction.

**MICROCOSM OF LAKELAND**  
J. N. P. Watson assesses the conservationist and educational contributions made by the Lake District Interpretive Centre at Brockhole, Windermere.

**DOING IT WITH STYAL**  
Clive Aslet looks at the evolution of the Quarry Bank Mill museum at Styal near Manchester, which in its six-year history has made a valuable contribution to the understanding of the cotton industry.

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## Aerosol makers say there is no good reason to change propellents because of ozone

Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

The aerosol industry told Government yesterday that there is no immediate evidence to justify an immediate change in chemical propellents in use, despite suggestions that they are a threat to the Earth's protective ozone layer.

The industry, which has sales of 200m in a year, was asked by the Department of the Environment to report on alternative propellents. It is contending that the possibility that they may come that might be £10m.

Acceptability by consumers is difficult. Hairspray, for example, who are the highest section of the aerosol at 23 per cent, might their cans dispensing much or distinctly drier sprays.

It is because one alternative is a change to inflammable carbons, such as butane, which means adding either or methylene chloride, a drying agent, to the product.

Whether changes in propellents become statutory, as in the United States and imminent in Sweden, depends partly on EC attitudes this autumn then on decisions at a

Bonn meeting called to discuss the ozone controversy early in December.

The EEC, the United States and some Eastern block countries will be represented at the meeting. The United States is expected to lead a campaign to save the ozone in the face of criticism that action might be precipitate.

The EEC, which is under pressure from Holland to opt for a change in propellents, is expected to order an investigation ahead of the Bonn meeting.

As the British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association pointed out yesterday, an investigation of present evidence is unlikely to provide unequivocal conclusions.

Some people say chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) will deplete the ozone layer in the stratosphere sufficiently over a period of time as to let through too much ultraviolet radiation, so leading to more skin cancer in humans. Some mathematical models predict that, at worst, in 100 years a fifth of the ozone blanket will have been removed. Even on that basis, the manufacturers argue, a five-year delay in acting on CFCs to allow more decisive evidence to be collected, would mean an eventual depletion of only 1 per cent.

It is possible to get exactly that effect by moving 60 miles south, say from Birmingham to London, since the ozone layer thins towards the equator, the association says. There may be variations of plus or minus 25 per cent in ozone concentrations daily in middle latitudes.

But if ozone was being depleted at the worst possible rate, it would be detectable, and that has not proved to be the case. There is evidence, however, that since 1925 there has been a steady increase in ozone, to a total of 6 per cent.

A recent study by three researchers at the British Meteorological Office suggests that the increasing level of man-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may partly explain the ozone growth. Use of CFCs has been reduced by 16 per cent in the United States and by 8 per cent in Europe.

The manufacturers want more time for a better evaluation of the factors in ozone behaviour and for more work to be done on alternatives. CFCs at present account for about 70 per cent of propellents used in the United Kingdom.

There is a CFC that decays on its way to the stratosphere, but will be several years before it can be cleared on toxicity grounds.

## Anglo-US study to reduce air fuel danger

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Britain and the United States are to cooperate in a two-year research programme intended to eliminate as far as possible the danger of fires in aircraft in crashes on take-off and landing.

The programme will centre on a British additive, FM9, which causes jet fuel to coagulate when tanks are ruptured on impact. At present fuel forms a mist which burns explosively and causes split fuel to catch fire at once.

FM9 has been developed by Shell, ICI and the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, to the extent where a tank containing jet fuel plus the additive has been ruptured at high speed in tests and has failed to ignite.

Research is being concentrated now on ways of passing the coagulative additive through filters and pumps to the engines without clogging.

Scientists at the Civil Aviation Authority in London involved in the research estimate that the use of FM9 would add about 1 per cent to the cost of each airline ticket.

Not all airlines baselined to use the latest advance in fire protection, in which kerosene is superseded by the far more volatile wide-cut gasoline, because it increased operating costs. That might also apply to FM9, although enormous claims after the loss of a jumbo jet with up to 400 passengers may encourage them not to be so tardy.

In its annual report yesterday the Civil Aviation Authority reported no accidents to passenger-carrying aircraft on the British record in 1977, although two crashes involved cargo airliners.

There were 11 fatal accidents in light aviation, compared with 22 in 1976, the best safety performance for 10 years.

Thirty near-misses classed as "risk-bearing" involved commercial air transport aircraft in 1977 in a total of 792,000 flights. In the light aircraft sector there were 35 "risk-bearing" near-misses. In 2,450,000 flights. The rate for airliners has steadily improved since 1974, while that for light aircraft has remained steady.

CAA £15.6m loss, page 21

### Body identified

The body of a man found in a field at Manor Farm, Chertsey, Bedfordshire, was identified yesterday as that of Mr Dennis McEvoy, aged 35, of Houghton Regis, near Luton.

## Crown drops one charge of unlawful imprisonment

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Geoffrey Gurney, has dropped one of two charges of unlawful imprisonment brought against David Brain, aged 31, an unemployed labourer, after a six-day siege at North Aston, Oxfordshire, in July.

The charge alleged the imprisonment of Mr David Pearson, Mr Brain's friend, Mr Pearson, aged 24, of Breck Hill, Banbury, said: "I was never kept a prisoner in that house against my will." He added to go back to the siege of the first floor bedroom at the Old School House after Mr Brain had released him with a list of his demands.

### Ill-treatment of goldfish alleged

Two actors were accused at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday of ill-treating a goldfish. They were Nigel James Watson, aged 29, of Kimberley Road, Penylan, Cardiff, and Stewart Cox, of Aberystwyth Art Centre, University of Wales.

It was alleged that the fish was in a bowl that was smashed on a stage.

Leslie Bjarnason, a producer, also of Kimberley Road, was accused of aiding and abetting them. The hearing was adjourned.

## School writ against police chief

Our Correspondent

A headmaster and 14 members of staff at a school in West have issued a writ against Chief Constable of West, Mr Alex Rennie, alleging interference in the life of the school.

oksida School, at Craven has been the subject of investigations since two made complaints about it in June.

kside caters for psychologically disturbed children who there by local authority throughout Britain the approval of the nearest of Education and Mr Jack Mount, the ster, alleges that the old local authorities and that children would not wed back to the school the affair has been

## Single-track Channel tunnel wins support

By Michael Baily  
Transport Correspondent

The Channel tunnel project was given fresh impetus yesterday by both Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, and Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, speaking in Edinburgh and London.

While emphasizing that no decision would be reached in the life of the present Parliament, Mr Rodgers said he was ready to give urgent consideration to any proposals put to him as a result of studies recently carried out by British and French railways.

Sir Peter said that a single-line rail only tunnel costing between £600m and £700m could be open in 1988, and urged: "Let us seize the opportunity this time."

Addressing the American Chamber of Commerce in London, Sir Peter disclosed that Anglo-French studies had already shown the tunnel to be practical and commercially viable.

The new project was comparatively modest in relation to that abandoned in 1975, he said, "roughly the price of a score of jumbo jets, which last

about a decade and a half, whereas tunnels are more or less for ever."

Its environmental cost would also be low, as it would be connected to the present railway network. "There is no need for great earthworks through the Pas de Calais, and no question of ripping up Kent," he said.

Nor, would it be exclusive. It would leave plenty of sea-borne activity, and would not block further development of cross-Channel links.

It would make concrete the European idea, Sir Peter said. It would be more than a corridor between Britain and France; it would open up Europe to one another in easier access of trade and transport.

What I would stress, and I speak personally, is this: let us seize the opportunity this time. Let us not lose ourselves in debates far too long, resting exhausted finally in the familiar elderdowns of national indecision."

Mr Rodgers was addressing 250 delegates from European railways who met in Edinburgh to plan fares and timetable strategy for the next two years.

## Plea to stay ahead in teletext

British television set makers and broadcasting organizations were urged yesterday to stay ahead in producing and marketing teletext, the television information service now used in three systems: the BBC's Ceefax, the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Oracle and Post Office Prestel service.

It is a British invention. Opening an exhibition "in London displaying the systems," Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said the Government was ready to support any company hesitating to take the necessary leap into "a brave new future."

There was an estimated world market of about eight million teletext sets a year, he said.

Mr Oliver Sutton, director of the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association, said teletext would one day become a natural feature of every colour television receiver.

Mr Richard Franks, the BBC's director of news and current affairs, said the cost of producing the service would represent only about 31p on the licence fee. There were plans for Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, Cardiff, Belfast and Bristol.

## Air travellers 'subsidized out of rates'

By Our Air Correspondent

Passengers at Britain's provincial airports are often subsidized by local ratepayers, sometimes to an astonishingly high degree, according to a report published yesterday by the Polytechnic of Central London.

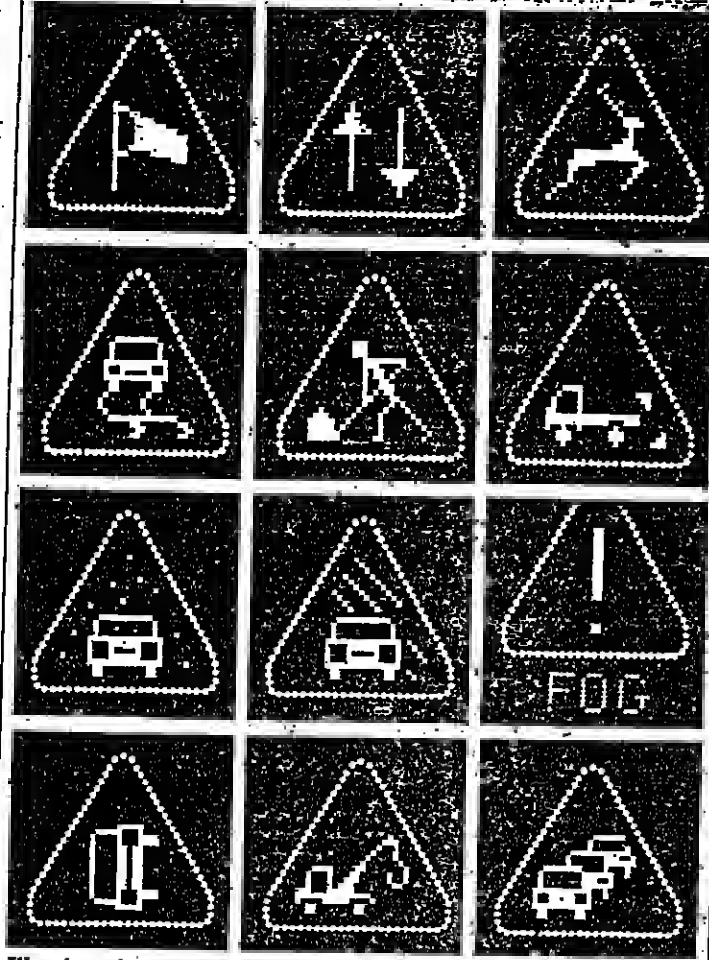
At Glamorgan airport the subsidy for each passenger in 1975-76 was £7.85, at Liverpool £5.12, at Stansted £4.05, at Teesside £2.31 and at Edinburgh £2.13.

In its White Paper on airports, published in February, the Government said that airports should meet their costs out of their revenues. The new study shows that there is little chance of that happening.

Of 22 airports studied by the polytechnic, only two, Heathrow and Jersey, made a profit in 1975-76.

To reduce and hold down costs, services outside the South-east of Britain should be concentrated at fewer airports, while investments must be held back and then concentrated on fewer airports, the report says.

If the British Airports Authority took the main regional airports into a single system, there could be substantial cost advantages.



Warning signs: Hazard warning signs forming the central part of flashing light "pictograms" to be installed on a busy 12-mile stretch of the M1 in Bedfordshire in an attempt to reduce motorway accidents. Above the hazard signs will flash the advisory speed limit and below it a figure showing how far left: crosswinds, two-way traffic and animals. Those in the rows below are: slippery road, roadworks, shed load, snow, rain, fog, accident, breakdown, congestion.

## Food firms urge challenge to EEC ban on aid

By Hugh Clayton

Food companies want British ministers to break an EEC rule that forbids national aid for industry. They believe there is no other way to save Britain's meat processing industry from undercutting by subsidized imports.

The national policy was endorsed yesterday by the Food and Drink Industries Council, the leading lobby for British food manufacturers, and a strongly pro-EEC organization.

Mr Tim Fortescue, its secretary-general, said at a meeting of the Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association in London: "I think the council would be prepared to go out on a limb with you and say: 'all right, we have had enough. It is not going to be changed until we change it unilaterally.'"

Mr E. M. Newton-Clarke, chairman of the association, said: "I like that." He said that for three years the industry had appealed for an end to the unfair base for calculation of EEC subsidies paid to processors in other Com-

munity countries who sold in Britain.

British output of tinned ham had dwindled because the subsidies had enabled Danish and Dutch suppliers to undercut British companies on the home market.

Mr Newton-Clarke said many British bacon factories were being kept open by the temporary employment subsidy. The Dames and Moore Ditch are raising our market. Maybe we are playing it too strictly by the rules."

Mr Fortescue said ministers should introduce a subsidy to the British meat industry that would be "challenged" in Brussels.

Milk price warning: Milk prices will have to rise soon, Mr John Peyton, chief opposition spokesman on farming and food, said at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, yesterday. Trade sources said that if the price of a pint was raised by 1p in the next few weeks it would have to go up by 1p early in 1979.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Red Brigades leader sentenced to 12 years by Milan court for illegal possession of weapons

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Sept. 20

A Milan court today sentenced Corrado Alunni, alleged to be a leading member of the Red Brigades terrorist movement responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister, to 12 years and four months in prison. He was also fined 2m lire (£1,400) and must pay costs.

He was charged with illegal possession of firearms. Police claim that an arsenal of small arms and ammunition was found in Signor Alunni's flat when they arrested him on September 13.

He is expected to face later a further charge of involvement in the Moro affair and possibly other violent Red Brigades activities.

He was absent from the courtroom when the sentence was read. He had earlier reiterated the right of the proletariat to use armed force to achieve its revolutionary goals.

Meanwhile, Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans are feeling increasingly the effects of what they believe to be a Communist retreat into rigidity.

Senator Armando Cossutta, who is considered to be a representative of the hard traditionalism of the Communist Party, came out today with a statement which underlines the difficulties the Communists have felt as a result of the policy of national solidarity.

He was referring to the parliamentary agreement which a minority Christian Democrat Government is for the first time officially supported in Parliament, by the Communists, as

well as by the Socialists, Republicans and Social Democrats. His statement came here on the heels of a speech made on Sunday in Genoa by Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, which was widely interpreted as a refusal to move in a direction which would make the Communist Party more acceptable to the other parties of the alliance.

The Socialists have urged the Communists to move away from Leninist and 'class war' with the Soviet Union. The Christian Democrat leadership has been scrupulous in avoiding the creation of difficulties for Signor Berlinguer personally and have proved more understanding of his political difficulties.

However, in his Geneva speech Signor Berlinguer was insisting on the need for collaboration with the Christian Democrats but without diminishing his party's Communist identity. The Republicans are bitter because they have been the masses and have been underwritten the democratic nature of Signor Berlinguer's party.

Senator Cossutta said that the policy of national solidarity had made people forget that the need for differentiation and had overclouded the party's true nature. "Above all in the south and the big cities, the relationship between the party and the masses has been insufficient," he added.

The general line was valid but he conceded that there had been errors in applying and interpreting it, errors which had been magnified by the party's own mistakes.

The Communists were not formulating an ultimatum, he said, and the country needed

a Government with the Communists. "It is clear, however, and everyone, including the privileged classes and the politicians, must bear it firmly in mind, that the Communist Party cannot continue to be isolated in this position. Our support is conditional on the result which will be achieved in the near future."

The revival of controversy about the murder of Signor Moro further dimensioned the issue of Communist rigidity. They were the firmest during the long period of Moro's captivity in refusing any negotiation with the terrorists. On Sunday Signor Berlinguer pointed out that there was no other attitude to be taken. Today, the Communists feel that they have received a welcome backing for this view from Senator Vittoria Corbo, a Christian Democrat.

The senator was one of Moro's friends and says in an interview that there was never any hope of saving his life. "They intended killing him: this was the plan from the beginning," he said.

According to the interview with the news magazine L'Espresso, Moro feared for the safety of his family and that of himself. He also felt that his ideas were not understood and that he would have to pay for them.

Those who would make him pay were adversaries at home and abroad. The senator quoted his own words as saying: "The same for me as for Berlinguer. He is not understood in the Soviet Union and I am not understood in the United States and, partly, in Germany."

His West German adversary was, according to the interview, Herr Franz-Josef Strauss.

## Bad news tempers good for users of Paris Metro

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Sept. 20

Parisians will have a new generation of shining, shiny, modern underground trains entering service next week and today they found out what it was likely to cost them.

The transport authority published its new five-year plan which showed fares are projected to rise by 11.5 per cent a year up to 1983. Commuters from the suburbs also learnt from the plan that various projects to expand the Metro are being, or not shelved, at least for now.

The reason for all this is the removal of the 20 per cent state subsidy as part of the economic policy of M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to make all enterprises, state owned or otherwise, stand on their own feet.

Seven million journeys are made every day on public transport in Paris. Over the past few years the high-speed separate underground service, which crosses the city in just 15 minutes, has been brought into operation, bus services have been extended and another 33 miles of routes are to be opened next year.

But a large amount of the authority's capital expenditure is going on re-equipping all the underground lines with the new MF7 train. The first ones enter service on the line between Saint Denis and Porte de Vanves next Wednesday, inaugurated by an actress.

The designers have somehow managed to find an extra 23.5m of width in the new trains to accommodate the slightly wider girth of Parisians and they have chosen periwinkle blue as the colour for the interiors, presumably to match the uniforms of the Paris parking meter attendants.

The end of the end of the Paris underground experiment with the pneumatic tyres now in service on three Metro lines. New techniques in sound insulation and steel making have decided the designers to revert to more traditional metal wheels for the 62.5mph trains, which are planned to be in service on all lines over the next three years.

To the delight of tourists, some of the old hushers, built in 1919, are still in service on some lines, with their ornate wooden seats and red and green carriages. The Parisian commuter will happily forgo the nostalgia for those extra toches, but the extra cost will make him view the new trains with mixed emotions.

## Public opinion tightens French parole system

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Sept. 20

The French Government is to tighten its system of paroles, semi-freedom, and conditional discharge introduced several years ago as part of a liberalisation of French prisons.

There is no question of suppressing the system of paroles. The Bill approved this morning by the Cabinet sets up a distinction between a security regime, under which parole and conditional discharge will be ruled out, and a common law one. The Bill is in response to police and public opinion.

The security regime will be compulsory for people serving long sentences for crimes such as murder, torture and barbaric acts, particularly those involving children and the taking of hostages.

Also, crimes against human dignity such as procuring and drug peddling by professionals, the hijacking of aircraft and armed hold-ups. When such crimes are involved, parole and conditional discharge, for good conduct, will be applicable only after the prisoner has served a half to two-thirds of the sentence.

## Austria cancels visit

From Our Correspondent  
Vienna, Sept. 20

President Roderich Kirchschläger has cancelled an official visit to Czechoslovakia planned for early October. The official reason is that President Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia recently underwent a serious operation.

The visit was meant to mark a thaw in relations between the two countries. Recent violations of the border involving an Army helicopter and a private aircraft have been resolved quickly.

That could be sold to EEC intervention agencies at guaranteed prices. Any milk produced in excess of that amount would have to be sold at whatever price the market would pay.

Mr. Gundelach makes clear his own preference for flexible intervention prices. He also recognizes that to make a rough price policy of this kind stick it would be necessary to pay direct cash aids to supplement the income of small dairy farmers, who might otherwise go to the wall.

The Commission's report notes that support price spending in the dairy sector rose to £130m last year, a fivefold increase since 1968. This represents 20 per cent of the value of final consumption, compared with only 10 per cent 10 years ago.

## OVERSEAS



Members of Gush Emunim trying to reach the new settlement, run from Israeli troops ordered to bar their way.

## Extremist Jews refuse to quit settlement

From Michael Knipe  
Jerusalem, Sept. 20

A group of extremist Jewish settlers and their supporters remained at an illegal hillside settlement near Nablus in the occupied West Bank today in defiance of the Israeli Government. They set up camp on Monday night in protest at the Camp David accord.

Troops sealed off the area, but in spite of a Cabinet decision last night that the settlers should be removed, no effort was made to evict them by force. The military authorities appeared anxious not to make martyrs of the settlers, in the hope that they would leave of their own accord.

Some women and children left today, but the troops allowed supplies of water to go through to the remaining demonstrators. About 400 activists are at the site. They are supporters and members of Gush Emunim (Faith Block), an ultra-nationalist movement which believes in the right of Jews to settle in the whole of the biblical land of Israel.

## Israel-US dispute casts shadow on agreement

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Sept. 20

A continuing dispute between the United States and Israel on one last detail of the Camp David agreement has cast a shadow over the whole enterprise.

Mr. American believed that Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had agreed that there should be no more Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza during the five-year transitional period, but Mr. Begin says that he is committed to three months' moratorium.

An exchange of letters on this and other outstanding issues has therefore been delayed. It is now thought that the issue of West Bank settlements will be dealt with separately, and that the other letters—possibly as many as 10 dealing with such matters as Jerusalem, and construction of settlements in the Negev—will be issued immediately.

The last letters are still being discussed by officials, and a State Department official could not say when he expected them to be ready.

On Sunday evening a senior American official said there would be no new settlements during the five-year transitional period, but Mr. Begin denied this the next morning.

Mr. Begin has now clarified his understanding of the agreement. He says that the moratorium is not a permanent one, but a temporary one, lasting for three months.

Some survivors of the earthquake in Iran's worst earthquake this century mobbed the Shah when he visited the disaster area today.

Security men, soldiers and officials struggled to keep the Shah away from the rubble of the destroyed towns of Tabas.

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force. The military authorities appeared anxious not to make martyrs of the settlers, in the hope that they would leave of their own accord.

Some women and children left today, but the troops allowed supplies of water to go through to the remaining demonstrators. About 400 activists are at the site. They are supporters and members of Gush Emunim (Faith Block), an ultra-nationalist movement which believes in the right of Jews to settle in the whole of the biblical land of Israel.

## Israel-US dispute casts shadow on agreement

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Sept. 20

A continuing dispute between the United States and Israel on one last detail of the Camp David agreement has cast a shadow over the whole enterprise.

Mr. American believed that Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had agreed that there should be no more Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza during the five-year transitional period, but Mr. Begin says that he is committed to three months' moratorium.

An exchange of letters on this and other outstanding issues has therefore been delayed. It is now thought that the issue of West Bank settlements will be dealt with separately, and that the other letters—possibly as many as 10 dealing with such matters as Jerusalem, and construction of settlements in the Negev—will be issued immediately.

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## 11 missing in collision off Oporto

Oporto, Sept. 20.—Eleven

crew, from the Japanese cargo ship Angel were missing, presumed dead, after the vessel and a Greek kship collided in thick fog off Oporto, this morning, the Harbour authorities said.

Thirteen crew from the 7,000-ton Angel were picked up by the 3,600-ton cargo ship Hignity, which was reported to have heavily damaged but sailing to Oporto escorted by a Portuguese Navy boat and a Spanish vessel.

The Angel sank within a few minutes of the collision, 45 miles west of the Portuguese port. The port authorities said the crew apparently did not have time to launch lifeboats and jumped overboard in hope of rescue.—AP

## Heart transplant from boy

Lyons, Sept. 20.—French

surgeons have performed the heart of a young boy, aged 17, who died in a car accident into a 57-year-old man, Professor Georges Dureau, one of the operating team, said today.

He said the operation had been a technical success and the patient was well, but it was too early to say whether the transplant would be accepted.—Reuter.

## Danes approve voting age of 18 by narrow margin

From Christopher Follett  
Copenhagen, Sept. 20

In a national referendum held yesterday the Danish electorate voted, by a very narrow margin, in favour of lowering the age of suffrage from 20 to 18.

Only 63.4 per cent of those eligible to vote turned out and the final figures were 34.2 per cent for and 29.2 per cent against enfranchising the 18 and 19-year-olds. Expressed in actual numbers of electors, the outcome can be more clearly appreciated: 1.4 million abstained, 1.2 million voted "yes", and 1 million said "no".

The referendum vote diverged markedly from a Parliamentary vote on the issue in May, in which 131 MPs voted for the amendment to the voting age and only 21 against.

Herr Anker Jørgensen, the Social Democratic Prime Minister, who has led the pro-referendum "yes" campaign, was last night noticeably disappointed at the paltriness of

## Vote expected to bring new status for Jura

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, Sept. 20

The Swiss are to decide this weekend how to dispose of one of the problems left by the Congress of Vienna. A national referendum is expected to produce a big affirmative vote for creating a new canton, the confederation's twenty-third, in the French-speaking, mainly Roman Catholic, Northern Jura, contiguous with France.

The area of 323 square miles, with a population of about 67,300, comprising the districts of Delémont, Porrentruy and Franches-Montagnes and part of the canton of Bern—voted to June, 1974, to autonomy as a separate canton.

The three southern districts—Moutier, Courcelay and the Laufen Valley, separated from them by Delémont—which are largely Protestant and where Swiss German is closer to a second language for many, voted to remain part of the canton of Bern nearby.

The south, where separation has the support of only about 30 per cent, expects the north to continue efforts, eventually to incorporate its districts into the new canton, thus re-establishing the Jura's geographic entity.

The first attempt to remove the Jura from the dictates of Bern came in 1829, but it was only after the Bernese cantonal parliament clumsily outraged the Jura in 1947 by blocking the appointment of a French-speaking official to a senior

position, that the Jura's political movement began to take shape. The result provides an interesting political profile of Denmark. While the islands and eastern Denmark (and all the rest of the country) voted with a say in its affairs, the mainland, Jutland, voted solidly against the idea. In Atlantic Denmark, the Faroe Islands voted against the amendment—21 per cent against and only 5 per cent for—but further west, the huge province of Greenland regis-

tered a record 78.3 per cent favourable vote.

The decision enfranchises 146,000 young voters—44 per cent of the total electorate. Belgium is now the only European Community country not allowing 18-year-olds to vote in Parliamentary elections. Eighteen-year-olds are now also eligible to stand for Parliament.

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## Spanish diplomat admits spying in US and London

From Our Own Correspondent  
Madrid, Sept. 20

The Spanish diplomat who set up a wartime spy ring for Japan in the United States had earlier admitted to the Axis while Spanish press attaché in London, he disclosed here today.

Señor Angel Alcázar de Velasco admitted that he was the organizer of an espionage network consisting of four journalists and two other diplomats, all of them Spaniards. "I knew every detail of my activities," he said, when a young Canadian secret agent became friendly with the daughter of the Spanish consul in Vancouver and caught them coding information for transmission.

Señor Alcázar de Velasco refused to name the journalists and diplomats involved in spying for Japan.

The existence of the Spanish spy ring came to light in documents recently made public by the State Department in Washington.

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## Tough proposals to dry up EEC milk lake

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Sept. 20

A package of unprecedentedly tough proposals for reducing over-production by dairy farmers in the European Community was approved here today by the European Commission, and will be discussed by agriculture ministers of the Nine when they meet in Brussels on Monday.

Dairy farming has long been acknowledged to be the most flagrantly extravagant sector of the EEC's common agricultural policy, accounting for more than 40 per cent of all spending on farm price support.

The Commission's proposals go a long way to endorsing many of the criticisms of the policy made by Mr. Jozsef Siklósi, some of its recommendations, such as a ban on investment aids, will not be welcome.

The Commission puts the blame for over-production firmly on the excessively high support prices guaranteed to dairy farmers. Milk output is now running 15 to 16 per cent above demand, and is increasing by 1.7 per cent a year, whereas consumption is stagnant.

Partly for technical reasons, Mr. Fiaz Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, who supervised the drafting of the proposals, does not at this stage explicitly recommend a freeze on price increases for dairy farmers. But this is not ruled out.

The Commission does recommend that all aids currently granted by the EEC and national authorities for invest-

ment in new plant, such as processing equipment in dairies or row milking machines, no longer be sold at whatever price the market would pay.

Mr. Gundelach makes clear his own preference for flexible intervention prices. He also recognizes that to make a rough price policy of this kind stick it would be necessary to pay direct cash aids to supplement the income of small dairy farmers, who might otherwise go to the wall.

## Theodorakis music banned during Athens election

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Sept. 20

Theodorakis, the Greek composer and politician, today denounced the Government's decision to ban his music from the state-controlled radio and television networks during the municipal election in Athens.

Mr. Theodorakis is the official candidate for the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party. "This is the third time I have been ousted by the state-controlled mass media," he said.

The first time was in 1967, under a "Karamanlis" government. The second, in April, 1967, by decree of the military junta.















## A SPECIAL REPORT

## LANGUAGE COURSES

## Shortage of good teachers impedes progress

by Bob Doe

Fewer young people are choosing to study foreign languages and there are doubts about the standards achieved by those who do in spite of Britain's entry into the EEC and its crucial reliance on an export trade. It has occurred when the opportunities for language learning in schools and colleges are greater than ever before and at a time when the greatest hopes were held for audio-visual teaching methods. Much of the blame rests with the failure of schools and the public examination system to adapt to changing circumstances. But the general lack of interest in language skills particularly among employers and the complacency induced by having an international language as our mother tongue have played their part too.

The standards and decline in the numbers taking GCSE in languages are symptomatic. The numbers taking French at O level went up by only 4 per cent between 1970 and 1976, though the number of children in that age group increased by 10 per cent. The numbers taking English language at this level went up by nearly 20 per cent. Other languages fared even worse. Entries for Russian, for instance, fell by more than a third.

In sixth forms things were worse. At A level there were 7 per cent fewer taking French whereas English went up by 13 per cent, economics by 21 per cent and sociology by more than 50 per cent.

There is a marked reluctance among boys to take languages. Girls predominate at both O and A level, though nobody is really sure why. It is most noticeable in mixed schools, and it is suggested that adolescent boys are more inhibited about performing the unfamiliar sounds of a foreign language when girls are present.

So interest in languages has effectively declined, and yet with 80 per cent of children now in comprehensive schools, more children than ever before have the opportunity to study a foreign tongue—a chance that was often denied to those who failed the old 11-plus examination. But as a recent report from government school inspectors points out, the language teaching methods used in the old grammar schools with selected groups of able and motivated pupils have not proved suitable for use with groups of less or more mixed ability.

Some of the new methods, such as the language laboratory, have not entirely lived up to the high expectations

some teachers had for them. Often the equipment was available, but the skill in use in the technical back-up to keep it working was not. The introduction of French into primary schools, failed to achieve the greater enthusiasm for languages that was hoped for. It seemed to put some pupils off languages even more quickly, though some claim it could still work if the teaching troubles of the experiment could be overcome. The "catch them young" idea still holds considerable attraction to many teachers.

But the rapid expansion of language teaching has put good language teachers at a premium and, as the school inspectors point out, some have had to be employed as not as good as they might be. Nor are the courses they are expected to teach.

The traditional O and A level courses have "come under increasing criticism. They tend to concentrate on the written rather than the spoken word, barking back to the classical idea of languages as a training for the mind and to encourage accuracy, rather than primarily as means of communicating with people from other countries which, it is argued, would be more motivating for some children.

Uncertainty over the purpose and methods of language teaching and poor teachers all contributed to the present position described by the inspectors in which two out of three children abandon language learning as soon as they can—usually at the age of 14. They felt bored and disenchanted and thought what they were doing was pointless.

The three A level system of specializing in the sixth form does not allow those who opt for science and mathematics to continue with their language studies even at a subsidiary level. As a result, our future engineers, scientists and technologists all tend to abandon languages at 16. One in six of those still studying languages at O level continues with them.

Not surprisingly, the universities complain that they



cannot find enough well qualified candidates for their language courses. The numbers admitted to such courses over the past seven years have grown by nearly 20 per cent, but this merely keeps them in step with the general increase in undergraduate numbers. There is an increasing tendency to combine the study of a language with another subject such as economics, science or even another language. Two out of every three studying languages at university now do this and there has been a decline in the single language honours degree.

It is these declining specialist language courses that in the past provided the language teachers now so scarce. So language study seems to be locked into a sequence of unpopularity, producing, in turn being caused by, a shortage of good teachers. This is a feature not just of comprehensive schools. The independent schools also identified a shortage of language teachers as one of their main difficulties in a recent report from the Headmasters' Conference.

The shortcomings of the schools and colleges are not the whole story. There is little obvious incentive for a

young person to embark on the arduous work of learning a language in Britain. In spite of the economic need for Britons to export and even to work abroad, there is little recognition of it in the qualifications demanded by employers or the rewards given for language skills. A survey by York University found few jobs where languages were asked for, even in sales and marketing. Four out of five British exporters relied on foreign agents in their non-English speaking markets and 70 per cent of the linguists questioned said their employers disregarded their language abilities.

Young people in Britain do not have the cultural incentives to learn a language that their European counterparts have. English is not just the international commercial language, the language of travel and of science. It is also the language of pop music, Hollywood and the popular media.

There is not the same encouragement from parents in Britain for language learning. A recent survey in Denmark found that almost 100 per cent of all parents questioned wanted their children to learn English. There is no such incentive for a first foreign language for

Britons. The dominance of French is illogical but self-perpetuating. It is the only language for which enough teachers are available and so it continues to occupy a position in schools out of all proportion to its commercial importance. There are twice as many graduates of French as German; each year, five times as many as Spanish, and six times as many as Russian.

What are called the minority languages, though they may be spoken by half the population of the world, hardly get a look in. There are regularly only about 20 graduates of Chinese a year and separate figures for the increasingly important Arabic are not even collected. It is lumped with Japanese, along with the 100 or so graduates of all oriental, Asian and African languages.

The imbalances and failures of language teaching are now widely recognized and attempts are being made to correct them. But if the stock of linguists is vital to Britain's export trade something needs to be done to enhance the status of the linguist, and hence the priority given to languages. That is something that people alone can do little about.

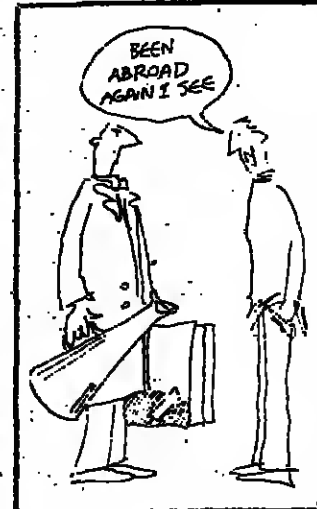
## Russian without tears: the key is interest

by Ross Davies

How effective are the different methods of language teaching used in intensive courses? Is it possible to learn another language painlessly, and what levels of attainment can realistically be achieved in a short time?

These are three of the questions most commonly asked about intensive language courses, and the answers that one receives may be almost as varied as the number of institutions one consults.

It was to Mr B. P. Pockney I turned for my answers. Mr Pockney is head of the department of linguistics and international studies at the University of Surrey. The university, which is at Guildford, has been teaching intensive language courses since the mid-1960s, starting with one of the more difficult, Russian.



they are strongly motivated and are making progress. "It's painful if they haven't got the motivation and are conscious of the workload they have to face."

What then of the last of my three questions: what are the levels of attainment which can realistically be achieved in a short time? Levels of attainment, Mr Pockney said, were measurable with any precision only if the aims themselves were clearly defined. One could, for instance, teach any living language just like Latin or Greek, and measure reading or writing ability alone.

To arrive at an answer, we settled on two different groups, each learning Italian (an easier language) and Russian (a difficult one). Each group would be learning the language either in a classroom or in a laboratory, and that of the grammar book and dictionary.

In a language laboratory, for example, there were many technical aids such as tape-recorders, discs, or videotapes to train the ear to hear a language as it is spoken.

Fairly advanced students might be played a 10 or 15-minute news item, and asked to give a five-minute oral summary either in the language being learnt or in English.

The more traditional grammar book helped with the rules and construction of the language. Mr Pockney told me: "The most successful method is the one that combines both audio-visual, and the grammar book method. A lot depends upon the problems of the language that is being learnt. Russian, for example, has a great number of grammatical rules, involving a lot of memory work—and that means books."

Indeed, he went on, an intelligent person could learn to read Russian well by books alone, but would be unable to understand a word of spoken Russian unless he or she had done some laboratory work.

On the other hand, people trained overmuch in the lab could acquire a good grasp of the sound of the language for conversational purposes, but would have trouble putting pen to paper.

The balance between one technique and the other, he said, is reached only after deciding what kind of use the student wishes to make of the language he is learning.

Thus, a businessman might say that he wished to cope with a long distance telephone conversation in Russian, but there might also come a time when he or she had to face a contract.

It was here that I brought in the second of my questions: is it really possible to learn another language painlessly?

Mr Pockney replied: "Can you learn science painlessly? Ask a scientist, and he would say: 'Which science—chemistry, biochemistry, which?' The answer, he went on, depended largely upon the language being learnt. Italian, for instance, was much easier for a Briton than Chinese.

However, a lot also depends upon the interest and the motivation of the student. Whatever the language, it will be tremendously hard work, but most students enjoy hard work if

time be learning to and write. The same standard he attained in Italian, between a third and a half time, Mr Pockney says. He summed up: "Is no magic formula learning a language. Very cross when advertisements in claiming to be able to a language in 24 hours just a nonsense."

The question of time, great importance to particular class of students, the man or woman, business or commerce wishes to pick up a commercially useful language. Mr Pockney recalls discussions with a number of business interests. These came to a conclusion that it was difficult to release people for the long time necessary to what he regards as through grounding.

At least one school is offering to business students in the evenings, after work but also by 7 pm on a Tuesday. I call learn a language really carefully.

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## British businessmen reluctant to learn

by Patricia Tisdall

It seems that all the exhortations to British industry about the importance of export sales and even our entry into the EEC have done little to counteract the businessman's unwillingness to speak other languages. Industry groups and language schools send back reports of continuing apathy. British businessmen, evidently still, rely on the position of English as the international commercial language.

The more optimistic leaders of industry maintain that there has been a distinct upturn of interest in languages as export markets toughen, but so far this is not reflected in any known statistics. Foreigners are still much keener to learn English than the English are to study other tongues.

A vivid illustration of the contrast in attitude is given in a recent letter to *The Times* in which Mr Michael Green compared requirements in marketing vacancies, advertisements in England and France. He found that more than 50 per cent of the vacancies advertised in *Le Monde* required applicants to possess a good knowledge of at least one foreign language. Many advertisements demanded fluency in one foreign language and a reasonable command (which he says most Englishmen would probably call "fluency") in another.

On the other hand he found that no more than 2 or 3 per cent of marketing vacancies advertised in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* expected any linguistic abilities among candidates. It is much the same, he says, in other areas.

French is the most important language for those businessmen who are prepared to learn, according to Mr Victor Green, sales manager of the Linguaphone Language Tuition Centre. While it is useful in many parts of the world, such as the Far East, North Africa and parts of Canada, fluency in French is almost essential for a businessman who hopes to work, say, on an assignment in France.

The reluctance (though not the inability) of the French to speak any language other than their own in their own country is well known in business circles. The trait persists even among language tuition executives. Mr Leslie Goodwin, marketing director of Linguaphone, narrates wryly that his French agent is the only one who insists on



speaking his own language at international meetings.

German comes next to French in scale of importance for Britons, although German executives are much more likely to want to practise their often impeccable English than listen to the halting attempts of their British colleagues. Next comes Spanish and Italian.

Recently, following the flow of trade, there has been a growth of interest in non-European languages among businessmen. Linguaphone has sufficient confidence in the newly expanded Middle East market to make the difficulties and expense of producing a recorded standard course in Gulf Arabic. One of the problems with the project, which has taken four years of research to complete, is that although the written language is more or less the same throughout, there are wide regional variations in the spoken version.

Other languages being marketed in recorded form for the first time by Linguaphone this year include Indonesian and Polish. But demand for these, as for instance for Japanese, lags well behind that for French, German, Italian and Spanish. Teachers say that shortage of time is one of the main differences between a businessman and any other pupil learning a language. A busy executive has real difficulties in finding in the two-hour sessions twice weekly which many language tutors believe is the minimum needed to start a language from scratch. On top of at least four hours of tuition the pupil needs to fit in at least as long again working on his own.

Partly offsetting his busy schedule, the business executive usually has a strong and

specific motive for wanting to learn. His future career prospects—a new job or a raise in pay—may depend on his acquiring a knowledge of a language.

The case of the engineer who said: "I've got to be in Tokyo in two weeks—teach me Japanese in a fortnight" is not unusual. This expert reckons it takes at least 80 hours of intensive tuition over, say, three months to approach "O" level standard or acquire a vocabulary of about 1,600 words in any language, but alone in one as difficult as Japanese.

The engineer, therefore, had given himself very little chance. But he stuck to the course and the story has a happy sequel, since he telephoned his tutor after arrival in Japan to say how well he received even his partial knowledge of his potential customers.

In fact, the drop-out rate among business language pupils is said to be very low. Having mastered a limited degree of colloquial fluency businessmen, typically, want to go on to take more advanced courses. Although business-oriented language courses are constantly being requested, the vocabulary needed for business use is not very different from that for standard conversations. The amount of specialist Jargon is much less than many businessmen imagine.

There is a variety of ways in which a businessman can go about learning a language. He can visit a language laboratory or school. Alternatively tuition can go to him. Firms arrange language tuition within company premises almost anywhere in Britain. Fees vary

according to the location and numbers in the group (not more than 10), but typically range from £1,000 to £1,500 for a full course.

The facilities for language learning are readily available even to the busiest executive. Given what the spirit of competitiveness, hopes are starting to rise in the language schools that more British businessmen will take advantage of their services.

The British Overseas Trade Board has set up a study group on foreign languages. When the study which the British Export Trade Research Organization is commissioning on the relationship between export performance and the employment of multi-lingual staff is completed, there will be more tangible evidence of the commercial desirability of languages. But it is acknowledged in all quarters that it will be a long struggle to realize the hopes.



## English not Esperanto still the lingua franca

many FELCO members strongly that they should be eligible for official position, or registration at least.



1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in mg g<sup>-1</sup> of dry weight.

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## by Prudence Glynn

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## Tennis

Molina: conceded only 15 points to David Lloyd.

## blood in Briti

sh team to make it a difficult night

John Connel at Wembley on Tuesday has withdrawn. Kates is informed promoter, Harry Levens, that he has a bad back and his place will be taken by the 35-year-old American champion, Leonard Rogers, of the Dominican Republic.

Whereas Kates had twice boxed for the world title, 35-year-old Rogers has just made his professional debut. "But he is rated number seven in the world by the World Boxing Council, whereas Kates was rated sixteenth," Mr Levens says yesterday.

An addition to the bill on Tuesday is the former European middleweight champion, Kevin Finnegan, who meets Bobby Patterson, or "Rocky," of London.

Mr. Muhammad Ali said that he wanted to enjoy being the world champion again before

making known his decision on whether to retire or continue boxing. "If I say 'I'm finished,' I'll be finished," he said. "If I say 'I'm going on,' I'll be on." Of the U.S. he said, "I'm going to be a citizen, but I'm holding the title for five or six months before making a decision on leaving next class." He said he would stay in the U.S. for a while, then "I'll go to Russia, then I'll make a move." The World Boxing Association rules allow a fighter to leave his country a few days before a fight, but not a great distance for eight months.

The New York State Boxing Commission has granted licenses to fight in boxing boxes. New York was following the road set in 4 states when women's heavyweight titles were open again to women. The women's world champion, Laila Ali, is a Canadian, a light-heavyweight, and a former Olympic medalist. Cathy Davis, and Marina "Lucky" Tremier, both classed as light-heavyweights, were in attendance, at an official ceremony.

Many.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE:** Cleveland Indians; Baltimore Orioles; 1: Cincinnati Reds; 2: New York Yankees; 3: Boston Red Sox; 4: Detroit Tigers; 5: California Angels; 6: Minnesota Twins; 7: Kansas City Royals; 8: Seattle Mariners; 9: Chicago White Sox; 8: Oakland Athletics; 1 and 7—3.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** Pittsburgh Pirates; 2: Cincinnati Reds; 1: Montreal Expos; 3: Philadelphia Phillies; 4: St. Louis Cardinals; 5: New York Mets; 6: Atlanta Braves; 7: Houston Astros; 2: San Diego Padres; 4: San Francisco Giants; 1: Los Angeles Dodgers; 8.

# Hockey

MASSACHUSETTS Varsity World Cup  
Group 1: Boston 1, Montreal 1  
B. Hills 1, Cambridgeville U.

Baby Ravon; who have just opened a splendid new office block (well, actually, it is a complete large house) in Paris, have decided to launch their autumn colours in the Boulevard. I was in the crowd, and I saw the first of the 11 rage amidst the vinous and creamy of the Girondo. I thought their burgundian colours elegant, the white Graves sampled at the Vin de Maison without parallel. The whole exercise was a lesson in interrelated practicality, which should be hoisted in by all our frosty, interminable "official" fashion editors, who refuse to talk to one another, or anybody else, and probably themselves are not pushed. They, apparently, would rather waste in unprofitable gloom than look one inch beyond their gin dormant and sexy, have Concord painted red, and black, shuttle new buyers into our flagging and blacked pieces. And no, I am not with this with a new shade the same colour as the mermaid Chateau Margaux.











His Afrikaner roots made it impossible for him to liberalize apartheid...

# After the Vorster years, South Africa is plunged into uncertainty

Pretoria, Sept 20  
Four years ago Mr. Vorster issued his now famous warning that the alternative to peace in southern Africa was too ghastly to contemplate. It has been a cry which many others in the region have subsequently taken up—often black leaders, who have used it to challenge Mr. Vorster's refusal to come to terms with South Africa's own black population.

It must be a profound disappointment to Mr. Vorster, as he relinquishes the Premiership, that his warning appears not to have been heeded. The ghastly alternative has become much more real to the intervening years. Rhodesia is teetering on the verge of civil war. In Namibia, the earlier optimism has been replaced by gloom about the prospects of achieving an internationally recognized settlement there, following South Africa's decision to go ahead with elections without United Nations supervision.

Mr. Vorster cannot be held responsible for the deteriorating situation in Rhodesia, except perhaps by some of the right-wingers who believe South Africa should have made a stand against the advancing tide of black nationalism on the banks of the Zambezi rather than the Limpopo. Mr. Vorster's role in Rhodesia has not been a positive one. It was the South Africans who persuaded Mr. Ian Smith to release black nationalists from detention in 1974 and who were instrumental in setting up the Victoria Falls conference the following year.

A year later Mr. Vorster was again instrumental in persuading Mr. Smith to accept the principle of majority rule during the Pretoria meetings with Dr. Henry Kissinger. However, events subsequently showed that the situation by then had gone beyond the point where South Africa could exert real influence in Rhodesia apart from closing the door to trade and military supplies—a course which Mr. Vorster, actively aware of the sanctions threats against South Africa, adamantly refused to do.

On Namibia, Mr. Vorster's role has been more equivocal. His agreement to grant the territory independence as a unitary state was a major departure from previous policy.



Mr. Vorster announcing his retirement at a press conference yesterday.

But it soon became clear that he hoped to do this simply by transferring power to the South African orchestrated Turnhalle conference, thus avoiding any involvement by either the United Nations or the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

When the five western powers pointed out that this course would not be internationally acceptable, Mr. Vorster was obliged to change course. During the months of negotiations that followed, South Africa agreed both to a United Nations presence and to SWAPO's participation in elections.

However, it was never entirely clear whether this acceptance was genuine or merely tactical. Many powerful members in the cabinet were opposed to the western plan; others, while not liking certain parts of it, realized the grave consequences that rejection would entail.

It was largely due to Mr.

Vorster's external policies that he earned a reputation for pragmatism—a reputation which few people expected he would earn when, as hard-line Minister of Justice, he was elected to succeed the assassinated Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd. Realizing the need for South Africa to establish ties with countries to its north, he embarked on an active policy of détente with black Africa. He visited Malawi, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Zambia, and adopted a policy of neutral cooperation towards the new Frelimo government in Mozambique. The fact that he allowed this policy to be destroyed by South Africa's disastrous intervention in the Angolan civil war was not only the most serious setback of his 12 years as Prime Minister but marked a turning-point in South Africa's relations with black Africa—a point from which there can probably be no return.

Internally Mr. Vorster's pragmatism (which some of his de-

tractors attribute to weakness of will and lack of foresight rather than to any desire for reform) has been restricted by the narrow confines of Afrikaner nationalism. Mr. Vorster is an Afrikaner nationalist first and foremost. He was brought up on tales of British brutality towards the brave Boers. For him, the desire to retain and strengthen Afrikaner identity is paramount. For this reason it was never possible for him to liberalize apartheid in the way that black South Africans and the international community wanted. When he declared that the blacks would never become permanent citizens of South Africa, he meant it. "If South Africa were to discard apartheid it would become the world's most popular corpse", he said a year ago.

Nevertheless, there have been modifications in the country's race policies during his years in office, however trifling these may appear to blacks. Blacks can do many things they were unable to do 12 years ago. Many

of them earn more. There has also been a change of attitude among many whites towards blacks, although goodness knows, there is still plenty of room for a further improvement in attitude.

However, the main pillars of apartheid, such as the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act and the Mixed Marriages and Immorality Acts, have remained intact. Nor has there been an easing on the maintenance of "law and order". The Vorster era saw the introduction of the Terrorism Act and the Internal Security Act, as well as widespread arrests and banning of political opponents.

At a political level, Mr. Vorster gave the go-ahead for black "homelands" to become independent. Two have already done so and two more are expected to do so shortly. He initiated dialogue with internal black leaders and laid the foundations for the new constitutional dispensation which will bring coloureds and Asians

into a tri-racial council of cabinets.

All this may seem of little consequence to black South Africans and to outsiders. But to many nationalist Afrikaners, accustomed to the rigidly doctrinaire approach of Dr. Verwoerd, it amounted to a radical revision of the Apartheid blueprint which some of them did not like. In 1969 a group of right-wingers led by Dr. Albert Herzog split from the National Party to form the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) because they disapproved of Mr. Vorster's "liberalization". It was an event that haunted Mr. Vorster for years and was chiefly responsible for his refusal to accelerate the pace of change. He was not prepared to go down in history as the man who presided over a second split in the ranks of Afrikaner nationalism.

In fact far from witnessing further division, Mr. Vorster is bowing out at a time when the National Party is stronger than ever before. The general election last November saw the party win its largest majority in history with large numbers of English-speaking South Africans flocking to its ranks. Mr. Vorster's prestige and authority have never been greater than at the moment.

Mr. Vorster's departure at this juncture must inevitably plunge the whole of southern Africa into a period of uncertainty. From the West's point of view, Mr. Vorster was a leader they knew and trusted, despite his refusal to heed Western pleas to introduce fundamental changes in the country's internal policies. His most likely successor, Mr. P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, is more unpredictable. It was he who was finally responsible for the Angolan adventure and he appears to have lost none of his belligerency as a result. He has led the campaign in the cabinet against the Namibian settlement plan.

When Mr. Vorster used to express his determination to stand and fight—as he frequently did—one knew he was still prepared to talk as well. The same may not be so with his successor.

Nicholas Ashford



## The Survivor

The political weekly—more accurately the political and literary weekly—is an Englishman who insisted that advertisements for wine should be carried—and he at last with the trade combines and the editor's ownership.

In this period the *Spectator* continued to be an enlightened Conservative. Wilson Harris, strong proponent of the *Upland*, and a genuinely independent literary editor he showed disdain for the editor's birthday. His present was a rubber article, *Stuffed Smarts*. But it was an editorial that the *Sp* took its present for columns and signed an until the 1920s its content been anonymous.

In 1934 Mr. (now S. C. P.) Snow bought the *Spectator*, at the image of the decade and a half imprinted on many memories. Gilmour in some contributors, like Fleming, "Sax" and more. Edmund Levin, a parliamentary column the by-line "Taper". Benjamin. Alan. Katherine. Whitehorn. Watkins.

It was in the early when Brian Inglis was that the circulation ran peak and the *Spectator* was as important influential as any paper in the country. F. R. Leavis, C. P. Snow was tough pages, and it was the last. McLeod—briefly, deposed the *Spectator* which had chosen Lar as Conservative leader.

But the Gilmour end of personal ce—it is a striking fact its first 125 years the *S* knew only six editors. There have been only last 25 years. And at the end of the paper in 1957 not be denied that the influence as well as its acceleration. Three ago the *Spectator* for latest owner, Mr. Keswick, and editor, Al. Gilmour, and he held to have recovered former reputation. In relation, though I am not interested judge.

A weekly paper is a run for pleasure rather profit, and it is a fact that the *Spectator* owners had to subsidize it—£5,000 was lost first two years—and its influence was unquenchable, was a mere 4,000. It is startling to learn that the *Spectator* would pay a £10 for an article. What our future is can tell in these pen. Anthony Howard predicted doom for the *S* though he and subsequent would have the of whether there is a term future for the in press as a whole. Part our educational system runs down and we run a "post-literate" cult would be optimistic forward to the year 19. But if the audience at by the weeklies remains it must always aim to be men of culture. (I put it) one may hope it will outlive those who p their demise.

Geoffrey Wheat

The author is literary c the *Spectator*.

Ronald Butt

## Labour's Rhodesian conscience

Without wishing to cause anyone to swoon, I feel bound to say that I am neither surprised nor shocked by the revelation of the Bingham report that the previous Labour government knew, and accepted, that British oil played a part in the circumvention of economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

To the Government, says the report, "the arrangement was acceptable because it took British oil companies out of the line of supply to Rhodesia and enabled it to be said that British oil was not reaching Rhodesia. In the light of Britain's primary international responsibility for Rhodesia, that seemed an object worth achieving, even though the arrangement would not deny oil to the illegal regime."

At no time during the Wilson years or afterwards did I ever suppose that the government's general attitude was otherwise. Nor did I ever suppose that anyone else with a modicum of intellectual clarity and information about public affairs could suppose that it was otherwise. What is more, it never occurred to me that the circumstances, that it could be otherwise.

Of course, we knew nothing about the particular face-saving swap arrangement with Total South Africa which allowed oil from British sources to take the place of non-British oil in the supply to South Africa to Rhodesia. But everyone knew, after Mozambique had ceased to be able to help Mr. Smith, that Rhodesia was kept going exclusively by and through South Africa—and that this situation could not be acceptable to the majority of British, or western, opinion.

It was obviously out of the ques-

tion for South Africa, given the political position that country is in, to promote the complete collapse of Mr. Smith's government. And it was no less politically impossible for the British government to extend sanctions to South Africa in the hope of forcing the country to abandon and isolate Rhodesia.

Now, given that South Africa was keeping Rhodesia going (including with oil supplies), and given that British interests in the matter required that Britain must or, at any rate, would accept this situation, what does it matter politically, or morally, if a tanker from one place of origin replaces a tanker from another place of origin, if the quantity of oil delivered to Rhodesia is, in the end, the same?

It matters nothing at all, and the hypocrisy of conniving at the swap (if hypocrisy is what it was) precisely reflected what everyone knew to be the Wilson government's position. As Lord Hume has just expressed it: "Once Mr. Wilson decided that it was policy to exempt South Africa from sanctions, clearly international companies were going to trade with South Africa, and so everyone accepted there was a swap there."

And he might have added that "everyone" in this context included Labour ministers responsible for economic policy and employment; Labour ministers responsible for foreign and defence policy; and trade unionists worried about jobs. The consequences of so outright clash with South Africa was out of the question for all of them.

Of course, to those extreme rac-

edicals who believe that nothing is more important than the clash over race, it might have seemed that the complete subjugation of the Smith government, and the desirability of the undermining of South Africa, should take precedence over every other consideration, including the means by which this end was achieved, and the chances of carnage that might result from its achievement. But the majority of active Labour people are simply not prepared to act on this analysis.

On this matter, as on many others, they do not put their money where their emotions are. Still less do they let their actions and their interest be dominated by their own rhetoric.

Of course, they detest Mr. Smith and South Africa, but when it comes to jobs it is another matter. There is a certain relief to the conscience about making everyone know to be the Wilson government's position. As Lord Hume has just expressed it: "Once Mr. Wilson decided that it was policy to exempt South Africa from sanctions, clearly international companies were going to trade with South Africa, and so everyone accepted there was a swap there."

That is also true of Labour and trade union attitudes to Britain's own defence spending. On principle, and emotionally, they do not care for defence spending at all. It is true that demands to cut it are usually justified by the arguments that we cannot afford it, or that we contribute more than our allies, or that it is not necessary.

But the Labour ethic (rooted partly in the pacifist aspects of socialism, and partly influenced by the belief on the left that the potential enemies, these days, being Marxists cannot be really dangerous) does not like spending on defence. Thus the

resolution from this year's draft Labour agenda proclaims: "That this Conference calls upon the Government to cut the arms programme by £2 billion and to spend the money thus saved on housing, education, the Health Service, public investment in manufacturing industry, and the development in the third world."

Everyone knows, however, that this is ritual (more or less) and that a Labour Government no more acts on party principle on defence than it does on the economy. For those who lead the Labour Party know that the policies to which they are to be attached would, if carried out to the letter, make it impossible to have the kind of free society they want to see.

So, perpetually, the Labour Party is driven by a clash between its ideology and its real will. It is this that leads it into dispiriting opposition on the very things that it will do in power, so helping to vitiate effective government in Britain.

So it has been with Rhodesia. Throughout this whole tragedy since the unilateral declaration of independence the situation has been allowed to deteriorate as a result of the barely concealed clash between Labour rhetoric and Labour reality. Of course, Mr. Smith was inexorably wrong to declare UDI, but once he had done so, and the government had decided that it should not, it could not attempt to restore British over-ride by force. It would have been much better to make a flexible attempt to reach terms with him that would have allowed some kind of social and political evolution, than to stick rigidly to criteria that made settlement impossible.

For all that has resulted from this

has been an attempt to deal with the situation by dishonest sanctions which have led to the present impasse, which did nothing to reduce Mr. Smith (who is actually being undermined by a very different sort of action) and which simply obliged the British government to say one sort of thing and do another.

Greater compromise at the start would not, of course, have satisfied those who suppose that African notions of democracy are precisely ours, or who think that African opinion on this or that constitutional device can be tested as though in a Swiss referendum. But it would have been a great deal better than the state Rhodesia is now in. By more willingness to build on reality in those early days, a great deal of bloodshed might have been saved, and what is more, give Sir Harold Wilson his due, the signs were that if he had not had the Labour Party behind him, having for the surrender of Smith, just such a solution is what he would have wanted.

For lack of it, his government and his party were forced into the disingenuousness and the deceit that is now being revealed. If they are to be blamed in this matter it is less for what they did than for being prepared to lead the party they lead holding the opinions they do. (And that is more, give Sir Harold Wilson his due, the signs were that if he had not had the Labour Party behind him, having for the surrender of Smith, just such a solution is what he would have wanted.)

Those Labour MPs who now say they are sickened by it all should say whether they are prepared to pay the real price for their political purity by the loss of jobs, the danger to the economy, and the risk to defence that we will have to face if we pursue their policy on Rhodesia sacrificially to its logical, and honest, conclusion.

## ARTS DIARY

### Arts Council subsidies to stay secret

In April the Arts Council announced that it was giving nearly £13m in the present financial year to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the National Theatre, the English National Opera and the Royal Shakespeare Company. It did not specify the payments to the individual companies.

Five months later the ENO and the RSC still decline to say how much public money they are receiving, nor will the council provide the information.

Covent Garden and the National Theatre have disclosed the size of their grants (£5,450,000 and £3,668,000 respectively) and in both cases the companies have said they are receiving more than they need. The ENO said yesterday that it would not give the figure because in the past the council had sometimes reviewed the size of the grant during the

year, and it did not want to give a figure that might change. The RSC said yesterday that it had not received its "formal" letter of offer from the council, and so could say nothing.

The council maintains a policy of not revealing the sums paid to individual organizations, leaving it to the organizations to give details if they want it. The grants will eventually be published in the council's annual report towards the end of 1979.

No doubt the ENO and the RSC are spending the grants with care and prudence, but there seems no good reason why the public should not be told how much of its money is being used to subsidize these companies.

### Reincarnation of Actors Company

In January the Actors Company gave what was thought to be its last performance, at the Round House, London. But next week the company is being revived, in an abbreviated form. The idea of an organization

democratically controlled by the actors retained its appeal and so a group of five actors, including Terence Alexander and Phyllida Law, has been gathered together to present a single production, *Ibsen's Ghosts*, directed by Robin Lefferts. *Ghosts* opens in Peterborough and, with Arts Council support, will tour smaller theatres in England and Wales until early November.

Not all those connected with the organization are happy at the way the company's name is being used, but those involved in *Ghosts* hope that further productions, with a bigger company, will ensue, and that the Actors Company will again become a regular feature in Britain's regional theatres.

### Musical rebirth at Cambridge

Resurrections seem to be in vogue this autumn. The last attempt to establish the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra was made by someone who was eventually fined £1,000 for fraud offences, but the local

music-lovers are undaunted: they have launched a new, and more soundly based, attempt to set up a full-size orchestra of professional standard.

The new Cambridge Symphony Orchestra made up of East Anglian musicians and backed by four local businessmen, the best known of whom is probably Mr. Clive Sinclair, the head of Sinclair Radionics. They are guaranteeing the orchestra against loss.

It will give its first concert on October 7, in Cambridge, with György Pauk, the violinist, as soloist and Michael Rose conducting. Norwich and Chelmsford will be visited later in the month.

The glass harmonica (based on the "musical glasses" known to generations of children) returns to the concert platform at Aldeburgh on October 5 and 6, with performances of Mozart's quintet for flute, oboe, viola, cello and glass harmonica. Running his moistened finger round the rim of the 30 glass bowls will be Bruno Hoffmeyer, the German musician who has dedicated his life to reviving the instrument.

### Piano quartet for dentists

Despite the fact that my own dentist is a passionate opera lover, I have never thought of dentistry as a particularly musical profession.

However, the opening of the new dental school and hospital at Newcastle University was celebrated last week by the premiere of a piano quinter by Wilfred Josephs. Before the work was played the composer was made an honorary doctor of music.

Josephs has a reputation extending beyond the classical music world because of his work as a composer of film music, and of themes for radio and television series as *Claudius*.

His music was used to serenade the assembled dentists because Josephs took his first degree in dentistry at Newcastle University and practised as a dentist for some years before deciding to devote himself solely to composition, forsaking his drill for sweeter sounds.

Pope John Paul's letters to historical and fictional characters, published as *Illustrations* while he was Patriarch of Venice, should be published in Britain by Collins in December. Among those to whom the new Pope addressed his thoughts are Goethe, Mr. Pickwick, Marconi and Pinocchio.

### An unexpected prominence

Five of the six finalists in the Leeds International Piano Competition had already gained success in competitions elsewhere, but for Kathryn Sturt, at 19 the youngest of the finalists, it was a sudden leap when she won fifth prize.

Kathryn, from Nelson, Lancashire, had not expected to get beyond the first round. "I did the competition in preparation for the next time, just for experience."

She is in her last year at the Royal College of Music, and it does not sound as if success is going to her head: she has already done a good deal of performing, largely as an

accompanist and in chamber music, and she intends to continue such work.

But Kendall Taylor, her teacher, wants her to do more solo work and, with offers coming in as a result of the competition, she expects in future to combine solo playing and accompanying.

### Regions return a favour

It looks a little like a case of coals to Newcastle, but next month sees the start of a scheme under which regional galleries will loan to the National Gallery in London.

The National has long been sending out pictures on loan, and the directors of the leading regional galleries, were keen to make a reciprocal gesture, showing off a few of their treasures to art lovers in the capital.

So once a year, for a period of a month, a painting from a regional gallery will go on show in London: the first will be Orazio Gentileschi's "Rest on the Flight into Egypt", from the

Birmingham City Museum Art Gallery, which will display from October.

### Pastoral pie is no ramble

James Galway, the seems to play the most interesting music with an air of tranquillity, so it is a relief to find that there are things that are difficult.

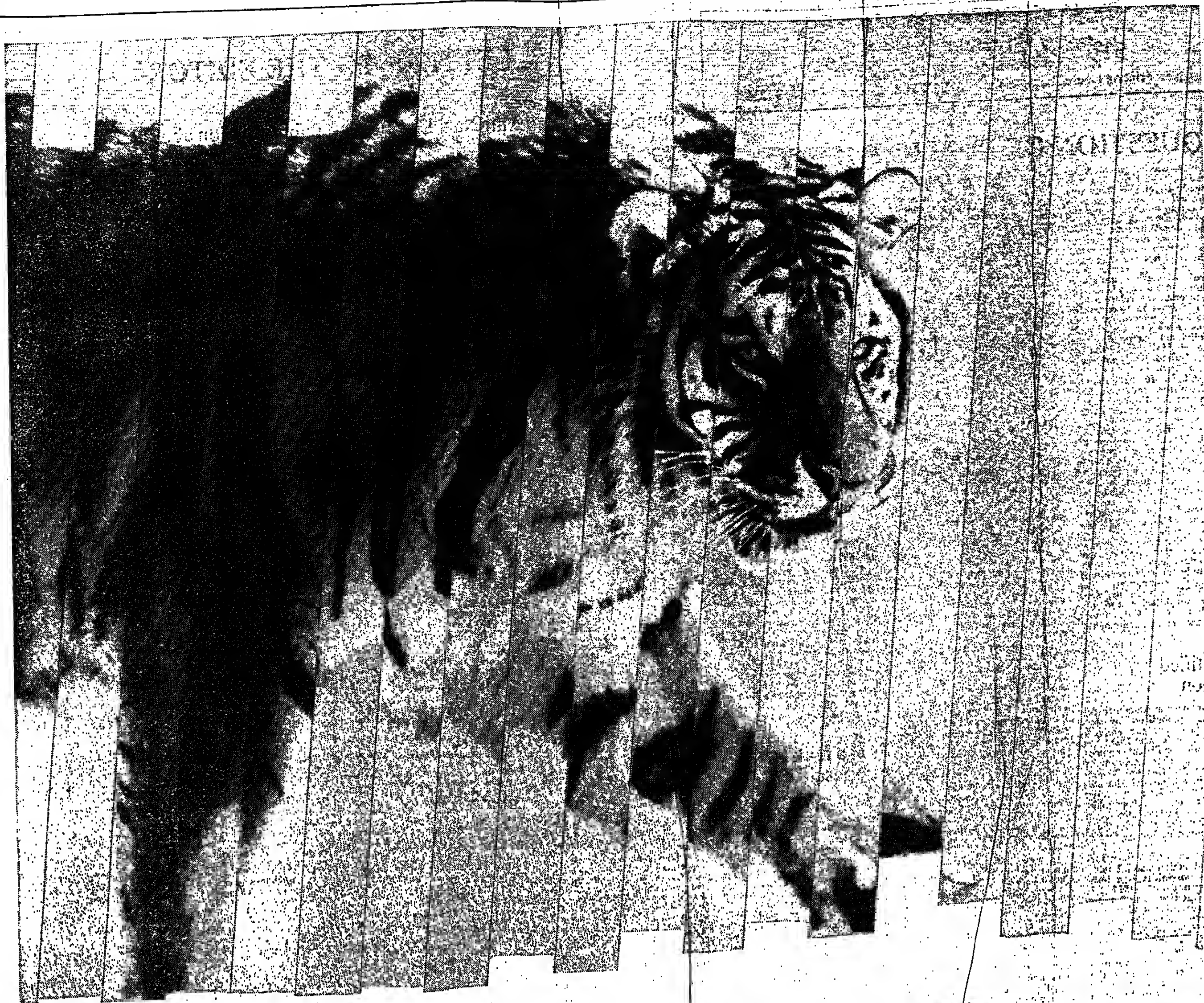
On October 17, at the Hall, he will be giving premiere, with the monia Orchestra, of C. P. Snow's *Pastoral for flute and oboe*, which he commissioned Juao Rodriguez, the composer, and its is such that he is devoted to all his efforts mastering the work. He was unable to go time to talk about it, but he is going to be "tricky". No doubt by 17 Galway will, as us making it all look easy

Martin Huc









# We'd like to correct a few illusions about our business

Putting a tiger in motorists' tanks is still an important part of our business. But it accounts for only 20% of our total production. So how is the rest sliced up?

Think of vast furnaces spewing out white hot metal, or steam held under immense pressure in huge boilers, or the heat source for hundreds of kinds of process work, and you have the biggest part of Esso's production—fuel oil.

Fuel oil is the fuel that keeps industry going.

It is also the fuel that produces some of Britain's electricity. In fact the biggest single user of fuel oil is a power station, converting 2 million tons of fuel oil a year into electrical power.

Fuel oil is used to drive ships such as the QE2 and 500,000 ton Supertankers, and to heat large buildings like hospitals and museums.

Fuel oil is efficient, versatile and accounts for nearly double the volume of petrol.

## Kerosines

Another versatile fuel used for both heating and for transport is the paraffin-type fuel known in the oil industry as kerosine. Home heating needs a light, highly refined oil for portable heaters and domestic boilers. And kerosine is the answer.

Other forms of kerosine, refined in different ways, are turbo-jet fuel for aircraft and the kerosine used to drive the gas turbines of ships. The Hovercraft and many of the Royal Navy's fast pursuit vessels are typical examples.

Through our underground pipeline from Fawley refinery near Southampton to Heathrow, we can pump up to half a million gallons of aviation jet fuel a day. We currently supply a quarter of

the total volume of fuel used by airlines in Britain.

Fuel consumption in aircraft is heavy. A Boeing 747 Jumbo jet uses 24,000 gallons on a single Atlantic crossing.

## Diesel fuels

Trains and trucks by comparison are economical in their use of fuel. For example, the 125 mph High Speed Train running between Kings Cross and Newcastle, uses only 1.3 gallons per mile.

If diesels are the work-horses which carry passengers or freight by train, truck, taxi or bus, diesel fuel is the work-horse fuel.

Last year Esso supplied London Transport buses with a quarter of their diesel fuel, and half the engine fuel used by British Rail.

Unlike some European

countries, Britain has never been very interested in diesel cars. Even in Germany where diesel fuel is cheaper than petrol diesel cars only represent 4-8% of the car population.

However, diesel fuel has a large off-road volume. Tractors and other agricultural vehicles, and contractors' plant such as excavators and dumpers are big users. Off-road diesel represents about two thirds the volume of diesel for normal road use.

The biggest diesel engines of all are in ships. One such diesel, with cylinders a man can stand upright in, produces as much power as 600 Maxis.

## Lubricants

Without exception where you use fuel you also use lubricants.

This is where real expertise is needed, for it not only requires skill to produce the lubricant, it requires skill in using the right oil and in using it economically.

How easy it would be for everybody if there was just one lubricant that could do every job.

The fact is different applications require different properties in the oil.

A jet flying at 40,000 feet has an engine oil temperature of 250°C, while the elevators, ailerons, and rudder require lubricating at -40°C.

To meet the wide range of uses Esso make more than 600 kinds of oil to do everything from lubricating the backs of pigs to lubricating the rollers on which bridges pivot.

## Speciality products

In this category are bitumen, used for surfacing roads, airport runways, and race tracks (Silverstone was recently resurfaced with Esso Bitumen); chemical feedstocks from which polythene, nylon, antifreeze, synthetic rubber and a host of other products are made; and LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), used in lighters and camping stoves, and among many other industrial uses for processing aluminium and for heating tile and pottery kilns.

That is how our tiger is sliced. We would like to talk to you, so if you are interested in learning more about any part of our business, please call our Marketing Bureau on 01-834 6677, Extension 3207.



The world's leading oil company







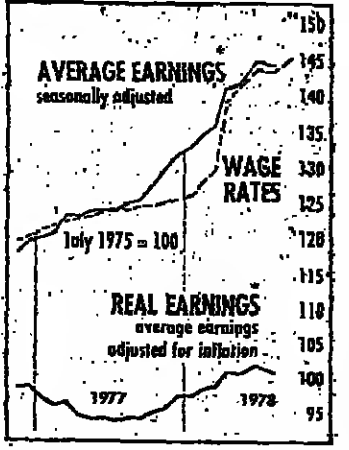
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

هكذا من الاصل



# Average earnings jumped 14.2 per cent in Phase Three pay round

line Atkinson  
average earnings in Britain  
14.2 per cent during  
three of the pay policy,  
ended in July. Although  
well above the govern-  
ment's 10 per cent guide-  
line, it is the Chancellor's  
estimate for the out-  
come of the last pay round,  
up by 7.8 per cent  
over 12 months to July.



or battle now lies ahead  
Government in its  
to baffle the increase  
in the current Phase  
Union leaders have re-  
sponse the 5 per cent  
for settlements in the  
and, and several large  
ave already been made.  
first major settlements  
will test the 5 per cent  
are for the Ford  
in the private sector,  
the local authority  
workers in the public  
The first is due in Oc-  
the second in Novem-  
the rate of inflation  
gaining to ease up, the  
near will have a hard  
erasing workers to  
within the guidelines,  
they hope that the  
ge rise of about 6 per  
real incomes this year  
up to moderate ser-  
from now on. In-  
creases are not cut  
bound to be a further  
in the rate of inflation  
ear. The faster than  
rise in earnings  
Phase Three has not yet  
into prices. To some  
its inflationary effect  
an offset by the rise in  
value of the pound,  
in dollar terms, and  
reased commodity prices  
markets.

## 31 fears hard line on 5pc limit

Confederation of British  
Unions (CBI) believes the Govern-  
ment will take a hard line on  
the 5 per cent limit. However,  
our pay policy, and it is  
one of its members will  
ght between trade union  
e and rigid enforcement  
aly clauses in govern-  
ments.

## Growth sharply ahead on new measure

line Atkinson  
th in the economy in  
out quarter of this year  
out four times faster  
first thought, according  
cial figures published  
lay. Much of the differ-  
is accounted for by a  
cal change, rebasing the  
to 1975 prices. This  
es the weight given to  
Sea oil production,  
arge upward revision to  
stimulated growth in con-  
sumption during the three  
to June, and later infor-  
on the output of some  
sectors has also pushed  
growth rate.  
is domestic product on  
input measure—the best  
of short-term move-  
in the economy—has  
it to have risen by 1.9  
in the second quarter,  
equivalent to an annual  
7.7 per cent between the  
and second quarters of the  
Such a growth rate would  
be sustainable for long. The  
forecast was for growth

# France rescues its steel industry

From Ian Murray  
Paris, September 20

The French Cabinet today  
adopted a French financial  
plan for salvaging the  
French steel industry, which is  
on the verge of collapse after  
the accumulated losses of the  
past three disastrous years.  
An economic and social plan,  
involving reorganization, merg-  
ers and the loss of jobs will  
come later.  
The plan has been described  
by some commentators as a pro-  
fessional and disguised national-  
ization. The Government  
strongly denies this.  
Though it sets itself no time  
limit, the ultimate objective is  
clear: the industry should be  
able in a few years to pay its  
way again, and that the Gov-  
ernment should pull out its  
direct financial stake.  
The plan is designed to put  
the industry back on a sound  
financial basis by reducing its  
of its crushing burden of debts  
of some 40,000 million francs  
(about £6,600m), servicing of which  
amounts to 15 per cent of the  
industry's annual turnover.  
This is to be done by placing  
the industry under the control  
of the state and of the banks  
through three new financial  
companies which will control  
the capital of the three big  
steel groups—Usinor, Sacilor,  
and Charbonnages-Maisons.  
The plan also provides for  
the creation of a "national fund"  
which will safeguard the  
interests of small shareholders.  
Through its own 15 per cent  
holding in the capital of the  
new financial companies, and  
that of unorganized banks and  
other public financial institu-  
tions, the state will control  
more than half of the working  
capital of the steel industry.  
The object is to reduce the serv-  
icing of the steel industry's  
debts to a more manageable 4  
per cent, or so, of its turnover.  
This control will involve, it  
was announced today, a com-  
plete reorganization of manage-  
ment, some top civil servants  
being appointed to key positions.  
M René Monory, the minister  
for economic affairs, would say  
that the plan was a "national  
reorganization of the industry",  
arguing that this would be the  
responsibility of the new man-  
agement of the companies  
themselves.  
Management would also be  
responsible, he said, for the  
of the staff, which in the  
1977 plan of the steel industry  
itself was to involve the sup-  
pression of 20,000 jobs by 1980.

## Arab anger puts dollar at new low

By Our Economics Staff  
The dollar was driven down to  
a new low against the Swiss  
franc in a wave of selling yester-  
day. It also dropped sharply  
against the Deutsche mark, the  
pound and the yen. It closed  
down 3.25 Swiss centimes at  
Swfr1.5375 to the dollar,  
DM1.9615 and 188.7 yen.  
Dealers said the hostile re-  
action of the Arab world, and in  
particular of Saudi Arabia, to the  
Camp David agreement be-  
tween Egypt and Israel, and the  
United States was largely re-  
sponsible for the fall.  
The depreciation of the dollar  
since Smithsonian measures  
against a basket of currencies,  
viewed from minus 8.9 per  
cent to minus 9.3 per cent.  
Official intervention to  
bolster it was apparent in  
Europe, especially in Switzer-  
land and Germany. Dealers  
thought that the Bank of Eng-  
land may also have intervened  
to hold down the rise of the  
pound.  
Sterling reached a six-month  
high in effective terms,  
measured against a basket of  
currencies. Its effective index  
rose from 62.9 to 63.2 per cent  
of its end 1971 value. The pound  
has risen by more than 14 per  
cent on this measure in the past  
month.  
Against the dollar, sterling  
rose by 1.65 cents to close at  
1.979. Some market men are  
talking about the possibility of a  
£2 pound in the near future.  
Sterling's rise poses a special  
problem for the British Govern-  
ment, as it has to decide  
whether to go into the proposed  
new European Monetary  
System (EMS) of fixed  
exchange rates and if so, at  
what rate for sterling.  
Mr Roy Jenkins, President of  
the European Commission, says  
in a radio programme to be  
broadcast tonight that the  
scheme would go ahead whether  
or not Britain joined. He also  
said that the United Kingdom  
should not once again miss the  
opportunity to enter a major  
European advance at this  
beginning.

# Studies on future of Chrysler UK still far from completion

By Maurice Corio  
Industrial Editor

A Government statement on  
the future of Chrysler UK,  
which the parent Chrysler Cor-  
poration of America proposes  
to transfer to Peugeot Citroën  
of France, is unlikely to be  
made for some time.  
Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of  
State for Industry, is expected  
to advise today's meeting of  
the Cabinet that a subcommit-  
tee examining the implications  
of any decision pending the  
outcome of further detailed  
studies, including clarification  
of Peugeot Citroën's future in-  
tentions and the nature of any  
guarantees it is prepared to  
assume.  
Whitehall officials are said  
to be working urgently on  
some form of new agreement,  
which would hand future  
control of the company to the  
Government's own support-  
ers were sceptical about the  
unfavourable Declaration of  
Intent which in January 1976  
accompanied the complicated  
financial agreements for  
£162.5m of state commitments.  
It is well known that Mr  
Varley has his own reserva-  
tions at the time of the 1976  
rescue operation. The Cabinet  
secretary more likely to head  
his advice this time when it  
comes to unscrupulous present  
support arrangements and trans-  
ferring guarantees, as well as  
assets, to a French concern,  
with different ideas and strat-  
egies to that of the Detroit-  
based Chrysler Corporation.  
Whitehall officials advising  
Mr Varley accept that it is  
impossible for the French as  
new owners to give total  
guarantees on United Kingdom  
jobs and rationalization. But  
they want to ensure that a  
degree of "profitability" and  
their current rentals should be  
frozen until the beginning of  
next April, the Price Commis-  
sion recommended yesterday.  
The commission, which has  
been investigating six rental  
companies, also served notice  
that when any rental companies  
justified future increases in  
charges, such proposals would  
be examined against a number  
of important issues thrown up  
by the present investigation.  
The commission wants the  
companies to reflect the effect  
of improvements in reliability,  
which reduce servicing costs, in  
their rental charges.  
Because the television rental  
sector accounts for about half  
the domestic television market  
and is the main competitive  
influence on the rental market,  
the commission should be en-  
couraged, the commission said.  
This encouragement should include  
provision against "undue price  
parallelism".  
The commission will also  
look for "constructive joint  
planning" between manufac-  
turers and renters.  
Results of the investigation  
asked for by Mr Roy Hattersley,  
Secretary of State for Prices  
and Consumer Protection, are  
still being considered by him.  
The six companies under in-  
vestigation were Thorn Television  
Rentals, a subsidiary of Thorn  
Electrical Industries which trades through  
Radio Rentals, Domestic Electric  
Rentals (DER) and Multi-  
broadcast; Rumbelow, a sub-  
sidiary of Thorn Electrical In-  
dustries; Granada TV Rental  
Rediffusion, a subsidiary of  
British Electric Traction; and  
Visionhire and Relay Vision,  
subsidiaries of Electronic Ren-  
tals Group (ERG).  
The companies hold about  
58 per cent of the United King-  
dom television rental market,  
compared with 45 per cent in  
1971. The increase is partly  
due to a series of takeovers of  
smaller companies. Thorn's  
interests, including Rumbelow,  
account for 29 per cent of the  
total market, and Visionhire,  
together with Relay Vision, 8  
per cent.  
Thorn said last night it would  
ask Mr Hattersley why the most  
efficient companies had been  
singled out for a price freeze.  
The commission found that  
Thorn Television Rentals had,  
on a historic cost basis, in-  
creased its return on capital  
from 16.7 per cent in 1974 to  
30.6 per cent this year.  
Current cost return, taking  
inflation into account, for Thorn  
this year was 14.7 per cent.  
Visionhire 13 per cent, Granada  
9.7 per cent and Rediffusion  
5.4 per cent.  
Straight financial compari-  
son suggested there was some  
advantage in buying rather than  
renting, if a set was kept more  
than four years, the commission  
found. But rental companies  
maintained a high standard of  
service.  
"Charges, costs and margins in  
hiring television sets for  
commercial use," the Price Commission  
examination number eight, to  
be published by HMSO.

# RTZ forecasts profits will remain down

By Our Financial Staff  
Profits for 1978 at Rio Tinto  
Zinc, the mining and manu-  
facturing group, are expected to  
be "somewhat lower" than the  
pre-tax £271.5m made last year,  
Sir Mark Turner, RTZ's chair-  
man, said yesterday. The com-  
pany's first-half results have al-  
ready been given as £122.6m—  
£23.5m down on last year.  
At the same time, sales re-  
venue, at £72.5m, was £82.1m  
more than for the same period  
of last year. The downturn was  
attributed to adverse currency  
movements and very low com-  
modity prices.  
But production next year at  
the troubled Rossing uranium  
mine in Namibia (South West  
Africa) is expected to be close  
to the rate capacity of 5,000  
pounds a year. A Grand Jury  
investigation in the United  
States into the uranium indus-  
try ended without charges  
being brought against RTZ.  
Trading results were better  
than expected by the stock  
market, and the shares closed  
5p up at 250p.  
The confectionery group  
Rowntree Macintosh, disap-  
pointed the market with profits  
for the 24 weeks to June 17 up  
by only 4.2 per cent to £12.5m.  
Profits growth for the whole  
of last year was 34 per cent to  
£41.5m.  
Rowntree's sales, however,  
rose by over 23 per cent to  
£231.9m and the company says  
total volume rose by 5 per cent  
again, "particularly compen-  
sative trading". It adds: "In-  
evitably this means acceptance of



Sir Mark Turner, chairman of Rowntree Macintosh.

somewhat lower trading mar-  
gins".  
However, full-year profits are  
still expected to be higher than  
last year. The shares fell 18p  
to 425p.  
Bad weather and under-in-  
surance in the household field  
caused underwriting losses at  
Eagle Star to leap from £3.4m  
to £9m in the first-half of this  
year.  
Reporting pre-tax profits  
down from £19.5m to £18.5m,  
the group said it had started  
index-linking on domestic poli-  
cies, so premiums would rise in  
line with inflation.  
A spokesman said: "We are  
confident this will go a long  
way towards eliminating the  
substantial losses being experi-  
enced".  
Financial Editor, page 23

# The Trustees Corporation Limited.

Commonwealth  
2.5%  
Fixed  
Interest  
1.7%

Consumer  
Durable  
14.9%

Consumer  
Non-Durable  
16.5%

Financial  
34.5%

Other  
10.2%

Fixed  
Interest  
1.7%

Geographical Distribution of Assets

Europe 55%  
USA 24%  
Canada 4%  
Australia 4%  
Japan 3%  
Others 8%

Retail Price Index

1968 1972 1976 1977 1978

100 130 238 279 301

Gross Dividend per Ordinary Share (Indexed)

1968 1972 1976 1977 1978

100 118 167 195 233

Financial Times Actuaries All-Share Index

1968 1972 1976 1977 1978

100 149 108 126 148

Net Assets per Ordinary Share (Indexed)

1968 1972 1976 1977 1978

100 135 120 134 154

# Writs likely against Nation Life property assessors

By Margaret Stoggs  
Writs for damages will be  
filed within three weeks against  
the firm which valued the now  
defunct Nation Life's property  
portfolio. If the liquidator's  
action succeeds, it could mean  
up to an extra 10p in the £1 for  
the 300,000 policyholders of the  
failed insurance company.  
The liquidator, Mr Gerbard  
Weiss of accountants Cork  
Gulley, confirmed last night  
that action would be taken  
against B. A. James, the firm  
which valued Nation Life's con-  
troversial collection of properties  
in Bournemouth as £5m in  
1973, compared with the £1.2m  
they later realised in this  
market place.  
In May 1973, the partnerships  
of B. A. James and Herring  
Daw, and Manners, another firm  
of agents and surveyors, merged  
to become the unlimited com-  
pany, Herring Daw. The two  
original partners of B. A.

# How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Barclays Bank	2p to 260p	Anglo Am Coal	25p to 700p
Imperial Chemical	1p to 73p	Ayer Rham	10p to 35p
Bechtel Grp	10p to 91p	Bk of NSW	15p to 60p
Distillers	3p to 21p	Broken Hill	10p to 71p
EMI	2p to 170p	Causton, Sir J.	2p to 22p
GEC	7p to 53p	Cement Rdstone	Sp to 103p
Hawker Siddeley	4p to 25p	Com Bk of Syd	10p to 17p

THE POUND	
Home Charm	3p to 220p
Imperial Chemical	1p to 73p
Ladbroke	7p to 182p
Mills & Allen	6p to 153p
Manitex	8p to 342p
Rolls-Royce	6p to 116p

THE FT INDEX	
Harmony	11p to 394p
Klondike	11p to 606p
Lithuanian	14p to 540p
Nitrate Export	10p to 35p
Rowntree Mac	13p to 425p
Sale Tinsley	10p to 315p
Spears & Jackson	9p to 132p

# Lloyds moves against broker

A statement is expected from  
Lloyd's today on its decision to  
suspend a small firm of insur-  
ance brokers from placing  
business in the market.  
The decision was taken at  
yesterday's weekly meeting of  
Lloyd's committee, but details  
are being withheld until  
partners and associates have  
been informed. This will bring  
to four the number of firms  
suspended or removed from the  
list of Lloyd's brokers at this  
year, compared with one last  
year and two the year before.

# Comben's easy victory

Comben Group has gained an  
easy victory in its takeover  
skirmish for fellow house-  
builders Orme Developments.  
Barclays Merchant Bank said  
yesterday that acceptances for  
53.7 per cent of the equity had  
been received and that the offer  
had gone unconditional. The  
only loose end still to be tied  
up is what St Piran will do  
with its 28.2 per cent interest in  
Orme.



## Toolmakers' strike ultimatum to Leyland

By Clifford Webb

Mr Roy Fraser, chairman of BL Cars, unofficial toolroom committee, yesterday issued a strike ultimatum to the national executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers over the SU carburettors dispute at Birmingham.

"Support the SU toolmakers case or we will recommend strike action when our full committee meets in about 10 days time," he said.

Speaking in Birmingham after a three-hour meeting of his "rebel" executive, he said: "We want the national executive to set a date for a meeting with the company and to make it clear that the terms of reference for that meeting are to discuss the toolmakers' demands for parity. We also feel that toolmakers' representatives should be present at such a meeting."

The parity deal for BL Car workers, now being finalized, was "not worth the paper it is written on."

It is being linked to productivity. We want a parity scheme which is independent of productivity. We want it to be introduced in stages with a firm date set for completion."

Mr George Regan, leader of the 33 toolmakers on unofficial strike at SU Fuel Systems for the past seven weeks, said: "I am quite happy with the decision here today. If the national executive agrees to support our case in discussions with the company I will recommend a return to work tomorrow. But I should reserve the right to call the men out again if those talks proved fruitless."

## Barclays staff say wage rules too rigid

By Christopher Thomas

Barclays Group Staff Association yesterday condemned the Government's Phase Four pay policy as "too rigid and too divisive."

The general policy-making committee of the association, which has 35,000 members, is meeting this week at Sussex University, Brighton. Mr Eddie Gale, general secretary, said differences had to be restored in less than a year in the present annual review.

Mr Gale emphasized that the association was opposed to banks opening on Friday evening or Saturday for general banking services.

He said: "We are willing to discuss variable opening hours outside the present 9.30 am to 3.30 pm facility at a small number of branches if the bank shows good cause."

## Less power station coal predicted

By David Felton

A report released today by the influential Economist Intelligence Unit supports the Central Electricity Generating Board in arguing that power stations' coal demand by 1985 is likely to be much lower than envisaged by the Department of Energy.

The department's Green Paper sees Britain's power stations needing 80 million tons of coal by 1985, while the CEBB expects to burn between 65 and 75 million tons. But the Economist Intelligence Unit report says demand will be for about 55 million tons, compared with 62 million tons in 1976.

The report says there will be a surplus of steam coal (coal used for steam-raising) and suggests that a possible method of dealing with this would be to subsidize its use in power stations. This idea has met with hostility from the CEBB because it does not see why it should foot the bill for the subsidies.

Another means of dealing

## Pit bonuses raise output by 11.3pc

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Pit productivity bonuses introduced in the coal industry after long opposition from militant miners' leaders are at last showing "encouraging" results.

According to figures given to the National Union of Mineworkers at a confidential consultative meeting by the National Coal Board, productivity at the coal face is up by 11.3 per cent, and deep-mined output this year should be 5,000,000 tonnes higher, at around 110 million tonnes.

In the first 23 weeks of this financial year, output was 42,553,000 tonnes compared with 42,528,000 tonnes for the same period in 1977-78, when there were more miners at more pits. But even this shortfall of 325,000 tonnes is expected to be made

up by increased production before the half year is out.

At the current rate of rising productivity, this year looks like being the best since miners' unrest over pay came to a head in the late 1960s.

The NCB officially described the figures as encouraging when they met miners' leaders and predicted that productivity would meet the overall increase of 3 per cent set as the target when pit incentives were introduced earlier this year.

Face productivity is up by 9.7 per cent over the whole period under review, but the key figure is that in the past three weeks, it is up 11.3 per cent and shows no sign of slackening. And this has happened during the summer months, which are not regarded as the period of optimum output.

NCB experts naturally ascribe the surge to the pit incentive schemes, which were bitterly opposed by militant miners' leaders, including Mr Arthur Scargill, left wing president of the Yorkshire area.

Early returns for the 24th week of the current year suggest that the productivity momentum is being kept up, and the two sides of the industry are expected to make public the output figures at the half-year stage in a fortnight's time.

The NUM is expected to submit shortly its pay claim for 250,000 miners, proposed at £110 at the coal face and proportionate rates elsewhere. This would mean rises of up to £31 a week on current basic rates.

But with many face workers earning up to £30 extra through productivity pay, the claim is not likely to be greeted with early vigour. The industry is not due for a new wage agreement until March 1979.

## Americans confident dollar will strengthen

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Sept 20

President Carter's Administration clearly expects the dollar to strengthen in the foreign exchange markets. It believes that the world economic outlook is improving, and it expects progress will be made at international meetings this weekend on strengthening the world monetary system.

Mr Anthony Solomon, Under Secretary for monetary affairs at the Treasury, said the prospects were now good for sustained economic growth in 1979, with a greater convergence of growth rates among the major industrial countries.

He forecast a "significant improvement" in the United States balance of payments over the next year and reductions in the payments surpluses of Japan, West Germany and the oil-exporting nations.

This top Treasury official said there was evidence already that these balance of payments trends were developing and, in answer to a question on the dollar's prospects, he said: "If the markets are behaving rationally, I think they would be impressed by these favourable trends. I assume the markets will in time respond."

Further, the Administration expected the dollar would benefit directly from new measures which would be taken shortly.

Mr Solomon indicated at a press conference that the Administration was confident that Congress would soon approve natural gas pricing legislation, and he said the Administration recognized "a clear need for more effective action on inflation."

He said he did not expect specific agreements to be reached at meetings of finance ministers this weekend which would directly affect the dollar. It was still uncertain whether President Carter would announce new and "rough" inflation measures during the International Monetary Fund annual meeting next week.

However, Mr Solomon said important progress was likely at the meetings at the weekend

and next week on strengthening the monetary system.

He said agreements were now being shaped, which might be finalized before long, which would lead to an increase in the IMF's membership quotas, a modest new allocation of special drawing rights, an increase in the interest rate on the SDR and an expanded role in official lending and borrowing for the SDR.

Mr Solomon said views among key governments were narrowing on the size of new IMF quotas increases and "a consensus is shaping" around a possible increase of roughly 50 per cent.

Mr Fred Bergsten, assistant Treasury secretary for international affairs, added that he expected progress at the forthcoming annual meeting of the World Bank on an increase in the bank's capital sufficient to permit it to raise its lending by 5 per cent, annually, in real terms, in the next few years.

Treasury officials said Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, would probably announce new 1979 balance of payments forecasts to the next few days.

The United States economy expanded at a greater rate in the second quarter of this year than earlier official statistics had suggested, but the pace of inflation was also faster, the Commerce Department reported.

It said that revised gross national product figures show a nominal annual rate of increase in the second quarter of 20.6 per cent, compared to a gain of 7.1 per cent in the first quarter. Real GNP, which is adjusted for inflation, had been estimated at 8 per cent, actually gained by 8.7 per cent in the second quarter, after rising by just 0.1 per cent in the first three months of this year.

The Chain Price Index of gross national product, which the Commerce Department views as the best measure of inflation, rose by 10.8 per cent, compared to a 7.1 per cent gain in the previous period.

## Aviation Authority's loss cut to £15.6m

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

The Civil Aviation Authority made a loss of £15.6m in 1977-78, but this compared with a loss of £44m the previous year and yesterday the authority said that they were "well rounded the corner".

Income during the year under review increased by 38 per cent to £90.2m while operating expenditure was held to £98.7m, an increase of only 1 per cent. Staff at the end of the financial year totalled 7,628, compared with 7,843 a year previously.

Mr Nigel Foulkes, chairman of the authority, said in presenting the accounts that the £15.6m loss came from only two activities, air traffic services in Britain and airfields in the Scottish highlands and islands, where they were obliged, by government, to charge well below the cost of services.

The general improvement in the authority's financial position has not come merely from increased charges, but also from rationalising operations. Mr Foulkes said that as part of an effort to recoup a total of £30m invested by the authority in the development of Sumburgh airport, in Shetland, for the North Sea oil industry, landing charges there for helicopter flights from April 1977 to £40 a ton from April 1978 to £45 a ton, plus 60p postage; CAA, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos.

This would make the cost of landing an S61 helicopter £400 compared with £45 now. The loss on highlands and islands airfields in 1977-78 was £12.8m.

## Price changes boost volume of UK imports

By Caroline Atkinson

Price changes have a significant effect on the quantity of imports into Britain, according to research published yesterday by the Treasury.

In the latest of a series of Treasury working papers, two government economists have investigated the reasons for rises in Britain's imports.

The effect on imports of changes in competitiveness, of relative profitability, of changes in demand, and of the degree of spare capacity.

The behaviour of imports is very important to the economy. When demand is boosted, some of the extra spending power goes on imported goods, rather than home-produced goods. The greater the proportion of extra imports for a given increase in spending power the less the demand increase benefits British growth and employment.

There is a disproportionately large rise in imports when there is a puzzle about the long-term trend—a rise in import penetration into Britain. It is not possible to quantify the factors which may explain this rise, such as a decline in so-called non-price competitive goods, design, delivery dates, and other non-price elements.

It has also been suggested that the United Kingdom has a fundamental structural problem. The slow response by British producers to changes in tastes and patterns of demand are exacerbated by imported goods, it has been said.

The researchers found that while both price competitiveness and rises in demand affect imports, the degree of spare capacity in Britain, relative to other overseas, has little effect. Profitability, which could affect the supply side as higher profits encourage producers to make and sell more, and vice versa—was thought to have a slight effect on the volume of imports.

There was some tentative evidence of switching by domestic manufacturers between home and export markets.

A Study of UK Imports of Manufactures from the United States and Simon Wren-Lewis, HM Treasury.

## Talks to start on £100m ship deal

Officials of British Shipbuilders are meeting today Mr Mustafa Cokeli, Pakistan's Minister for Ports, Shipping and Export Promotion, who recently indicated that his country wants 23 ships, probably worth about £100m.

Discussions are likely to focus on possible orders for five SD-14 standard design cargo ships, developed and built by Astmo and Pickershill, or its successor, the SD 18. More than 100 SD 14s, valued at about £5m each, have been built at Sunderland. British Shipbuilders unveiled the new SD 18 series in June, when they announced a £14m order for two of them.

Five ships could provide about six months' work for the yard, which employs 3,000 workers.



Mr Nigel Foulkes: "Well rounded the corner."

compared with £32.9m the previous year.

On operations where charges were controlled by the Government, there was a profit for the year of £4.3m compared with a profit of £300,000 in 1976-77.

The authority had some reservations about the pace of recent changes in the North Atlantic air routes. Within Europe, progress in the development of fare structures had been slower, but there were signs that in the coming year some progress would be made in reducing the high level of internal economy fares to certain European countries.

Civil Aviation Authority annual report and accounts 1977-78. £2.50, plus 60p postage; CAA, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos.

## Building orders up 8 per cent from last year

By John Huxley

Contractors won orders worth £23m for building work in Britain during July, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

At constant, seasonally adjusted prices, orders in the three months to July were 1 per cent lower than for the previous three months but 8 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year.

New orders in the public housing sector between May and July were up 4 per cent on the previous three months, and up 1 per cent on the same period last year. Private housing orders were up 8 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively.

Public works orders for the three months to July were down 3 per cent on the February to April period, but up 4 per cent on May to July of last year.

## Ricardo Engineers

A 47 per cent jump in pre-tax profits has taken Ricardo Engineers (1977) to nearly £1m for the first time. Profits at £340,000 compared with a record £140,000 a year ago.

The dividend is raised from 3.95p to 4.3p gross, leaving retained profits at £531,000, against £307,000.

## AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of all employed in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment:

	(1) Old index of average earnings 1970=100	(2) New index of average earnings 1970=100	Change (1) over (2) annualized rate
1977			
July	286.5	117.0	6.1
Aug	288.7	115.7	7.2
Sept	291.0	116.8	6.9
Oct	293.8	117.9	13.8
Nov	300.5	120.1	17.4
Dec	304.8	121.7	20.4
1978			
Jan	308.3	121.5	15.0
Feb	311.2	122.7	15.0
March	314.8	124.0	15.8
April	325.7	127.2	27.8
May	327.2	129.4	22.2
June	334.0	133.1	28.7
July	332.7	133.8	8.9

r revised

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CONSTANT FACTOR COST (1975=100)

	Exp	Imp	Income	Output	Avgt
1977					
July	103.1	103.0	103.8	103.4	103.4
Aug	103.0	102.9	103.7	103.3	103.3
Sept	102.8	102.7	103.5	103.1	103.1
Oct	102.6	102.5	103.3	102.9	102.9
Nov	102.4	102.3	103.1	102.7	102.7
Dec	102.2	102.1	102.9	102.5	102.5
1978					
Jan	102.0	101.9	102.7	102.3	102.3
Feb	101.8	101.7	102.5	102.1	102.1
March	101.6	101.5	102.3	101.9	101.9
April	101.4	101.3	102.1	101.7	101.7
May	101.2	101.1	101.9	101.5	101.5
June	101.0	100.9	101.7	101.3	101.3
July	100.8	100.7	101.5	101.1	101.1

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Foot-dragging on new techno

From Mr K. Mueller

Sir, No one would deny that Britain is dropping behind in the latest technology of silicon chips. The Department of Science and Technology, September 19.

But, as managing director of a company which has kept ahead of its competitors partly by developing an electronic control system for model railways, I can assure you it is industry rather than the Government that is dragging its feet.

As a company we like to avoid dependence on overseas technology. We have found this outlook mirrored at the Department of Industry.

We prefer to export actual products rather than simply export technology and pick up a royalty. We like to feel we are providing jobs in Britain rather than overseas. This same concern that Britain should not repeat the past mistake of letting its inventions be exploited overseas is to be found at the Department of Industry.

It is true that development costs with the new technology can be daunting. But having had the experience of seeking Government assistance, I have nothing but praise for the depth of knowledge and thoroughness

which the DSI brought to the study of our project.

On the other hand, the Duke of Edinburgh would be as justified today as he was a year or two back in urging British industry to get its finger out.

Yours faithfully,  
KARL MUELLER,  
Managing Director,  
Hornby Hobbies,  
Westwood,  
Magistrate,  
Great Ouse Valley,  
September 19.

From Mr T. M. Barron

Sir, Mr Potok should heed the experts.

The microprocessor is indeed a complex and wonderful device, and it has two characteristics which make it important economically. Given the right technological wizardry it is cheap to make, while at the same time it is pervasive—that is, the microprocessor can be used to great variety of ways, from talking dolls to robots. The combination of these characteristics means that new uses of the microprocessor can diffuse rapidly in many areas of the economy, as the example of the pocket calculator and the electronic watch clearly demonstrates.

Many studies, undertaken by the Science Policy R for the Department have shown that it could lead to improvement in productivity in manufacturing activities. Indeed, low level of investment office level and of this technology the office sector is likely to experience rapid and dramatic

While such improvements are able, there must have a strong economic base to be able to respond to the changing pattern of employment and changes in skill requirements. Such a prospect and careful study, mad constructive criticism if we are to be the latest technology.

IANN M. BARRON  
Immes Corporation  
Greyfriars,  
The Common,  
Redburn,  
Hertfordshire,  
September 18.

## The opencast undermining of Pencoed

From Mr F. S. Cole

Sir, On the face of it, after

reading Mr Donald Davies's letter of September 12, there would appear to be an element of doubt as to the profitability of opencast mining. This doubt is accentuated in my mind by the approach of the NCB, with reference to the proposed opencast operation in this district, the Ffernbank site at Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan. If this is typical of their approach throughout the country, then most certainly the cost per ton of production would be prohibitive, and objection on environmental grounds inevitable.

People, including myself, moved to this district in 1966, and are still paying off our mortgages. We overlook a beautiful landscape of valleys, with a mountain range in the background, on the edge of the Vale of Glamorgan. Shortly after moving in, NCB drills appeared in the valley and have been carrying out drilling ever since. Then a map appeared in the local library, showing the proposed site, the workings of which would spill over virtually to our doorsteps.

Any approach to the NCB seems to bring forth a stock reply to the effect that opencast mining is under consideration, but no definite permission has not been applied for. All will depend, it seems, upon the results of the drilling operations, which, as I say, have been carried out over the past eight or nine years.

Coinciding with these operations, the NCB have gradually purchased, at what have every reason to believe—greatly inflated prices. Some of these properties have been boarded up, while others have been re-let and this, together with other evidence, suggests that the matter has been decided on before the opencast mining permission has been granted, or public inquiry has taken place.

It is calculated that the scheme will extend over 25 years, which will include the restoration of the site to its former glory. And according to the Opencast Mining Act, no compensation will be made to those with properties on the perimeter, those people who have to face the full blast of the bolocaust, and suffer drastic loss on the value of their properties.

In view of the cost of all this in cash and human riches and suffering, is it surprising that there should be doubt as to economic viability, and that environmental objections arise? Yours faithfully,  
F. S. COLE,  
Ffernbank,  
Pencoed,  
Mid Glamorgan.

## Cutlery makers should press for access to cheaper steel

From Mr N. A. Bilitch

Sir, According to your commercial editor's account of the forthcoming report on the domestic cutlery industry to be issued by the Cutlery and Allied Trades Research Association, UK cutlery manufacturers cannot compete with imported cutlery due to the high cost steel, as compared to the Japanese and Koreans, who have access to much cheaper steel.

If they can buy cheap steel from the massive world surplus of that commodity, are UK cutlery manufacturers not putting pressure on the Government to allow them ready access to the same sources of the cheaper steel their competitors enjoy?

If the Government gives way to pressure for import controls, the price of domestic cutlery will soar, sales will plummet, and the quality will deteriorate; and the day will not be far off when it will not be just British Rail who serve their customers with plastic knives and forks, but the cutlery industry has been sounding off about foreign

competition for even though they subsidise the Safeguarding Act, 1925. More the duty of persistence and they still can. The only change that the subject of plant has moved since a long time coming from Germany. Far East they fear.

Why do they not up and leave the n of cutlery to the prepared to offer a good bargain clearly not. I challenge their st monolithic and state monopoly steel industry.

They fondly in given protection, have a free hand long-suffering Brit who is daily call support every declining industry, car manufacture it God only knows. Yours faithfully,  
N. A. BILITCH,  
6 Rushmore Road,  
Purley,  
London, SW15 3JX,  
September 19.

## Dirty work on the construction site

From Mr W. Corbushley

Sir, May I point out to Mr Tolhurst that the working conditions in one firm do not prove anything whatsoever, against the private sector of a whole industry with 30,000 individual firms, and working conditions generally stem from the job, not the ownership.

There are no concerns underground at our State-owned coal mines, and toilet conditions there would hardly be acceptable at the Ritz, while our profit-making, nationalized Post Office doesn't even have any toilets for its external engineers. They must eat their sandwiches in the confined space of a small van lined with equipment.

Construction necessarily involves dirty work by small groups of men at a temporary workplace, and only on the largest sites is it economically possible to provide facilities similar to those found for workers at a permanent workplace.

As for wages, the directed by the 1950s ago carpenter parts of England £150 per week at the building boom years ago plumbers the North Sea gas crossing the Pennine leaving £200 per

The customers wanted the pipe lit. I have told my own occasions that I sh happy to pay them if they can find m who will meet the bills.

The do-it-yourself reached enormous in this country b public is not prep the cost of employ sional craftsmen. Yours faithfully,  
W. CORBUSHLEY,  
Jalor Corbushley & 70 North Road,  
Freston,  
September 18.

## Babcock

### INTERIM RESULTS for the six months to 30 June 1978

	First half year (Unaudited)	Year (audited)	Year (audited)
	1978	1977	1977
	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	368,958	316,951	656,669
Profit before taxation	17,175	16,219	32,275
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	10,676	9,450	15,867
Ordinary dividends:			
Cost (£000)	2,924	2,147	4,841
Pershare	2.9312p	2.3580p	5.250p

The interim dividend will be paid on 23rd October 1978 to shareholders registered on 22nd September 1978.

- \* Exceptional contributions in the first half of 1977 conceal a real improvement of 40 per cent in pre-tax profits.
- \* Orders in hand a record £695 million. Order intake in 1978 expected to exceed £1,000 million.
- \* Larger number of major contracts in progress than at any time in the past will continue to make significant contributions to Group profits for some time to come.

Copies of the Interim Report may be obtained from  
The Secretary, Cleveland House, St. James's Square, London SW14 4LN.

**BABCOCK & WILCOX LIMITED**  
A leader in world-wide engineering

## The Ten Year Te



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## No relief from Eagle Star

There was no relief for the composite insurance sector yesterday with disappointing figures from Eagle Star.

Like other groups which carry on most of their business in the United Kingdom, Eagle Star had an awful underwriting experience due to bad weather, particularly in the first quarter.

While £1m was provided in the last quarter to cover the costs of two big storms and a further cushion has been provided by internal reinsurance, the overall underwriting deficit has spiralled to £13.4m from last year's £3.4m.

So despite a 22 per cent jump to £23.1m investment income and a spectacular 70 per cent jump to £4.8m contributed by overwood Securities, interim profits have been shaded down from £19.5m to £18.9m.

Conditions have improved since the half helped by increases in motor rates and efforts to raise premiums in the heavily under-insured household area, but at the same time results are held back by extremely cautious reserving on the important liability front.

Latest figures, however, only serve to underline the current dilemma for investors in the sector. Profits from the transatlantic group like Commercial Union and Royal have been forging ahead on the back of the United States recovery, but Guardian Royal Exchange has been the only one of the four United Kingdom-oriented majors to keep profits moving ahead.

The fashionable view now is that the big United States-oriented companies could be a job for the United States market as a peak while the United Kingdom group has massive scope for recovery. However, there is increasing evidence that the United States peak could be at least maintained for the next two years while United Kingdom groups may have a long way to go before competition eases sufficiently to allow more adequate rates.

Reflecting the slight shift in investment focus towards the United Kingdom specialists, the market took yesterday's setback philosophically leaving the shares unchanged at 148p. Given that, full-year profits could rise from £43.5m to £49m a p/e of seven and yield of 6.8 per cent may be taking full account of the medium-term ends.

**io Tinto-Zinc**

**Questions for the future**

Tinto-Zinc has for years excited mixed feelings in the market, and now looks vulnerable than ever to outside pressures. At the interim stage profits are £23.5m on £122.6m, and the outcome for the year is expected to be "somewhat lower" than for 1977. Exchange rate movements of poor commodity prices are essentially blamed for the decline at RTZ so far this year. To the past it has argued that it is "fictitiously diversified to insulate it against individual adverse markets, but that view not supported by their sort of results. Profits from sectors such as manufacturing, aluminium and borax, which pulled the

Robinson Robinson

## The pace is quickening

Robinson Robinson Group's first half profits are down from £12.5m to £9.67m, but the group has taken good care at its annual meeting to warn that results might not be much better than the second half of last year, when it made £9.33m. More relevant now is that DRG has been picking up pace encouragingly and the second quarter showed a marked improvement over the first. The problem, which spilled over into this year from the final quarter 1977, was that DRG was hit by a rash of queries, especially damaging in flexible packaging, at a time when demand was flying away steeply. The disruptions obviously accounted for some £2m of lost profit.

Just at the point where the disputes were solved, however, DRG began to detect a rise in demand. Like Bower it is not yet convinced that the upturn in consumer

spending has yet fed back into the industries—particularly food—to which it supplies packaging, but activity is nonetheless at a higher level than it was. Closer to the consumer, DRG reports a much better trend in demand for stationery, tapes and adhesives. And while the Croxley and Nash paper and board business has continued in loss, partly because of the start up of a new paper machine, it is expected to break even in the second half. Meanwhile, Canada is back into profit and South Africa and Australia are improving too.

So a strong second half looks assured, perhaps contributing as much as £15m to take the full year well past 1977's £21.9m and leave the shares standing on a p/e ratio of under 10 at 136p. The case for buying at this level is that DRG would have to do no more than maintain current levels of profitability into 1979 to secure another year of strong growth.

## Economic notebook

### A test for disinflation

The world monetary circus this week, the Commonwealth finance ministers having put on a preliminary performance in Montreal on route.

Doubtless, this year's IMF meeting is going to be more than usually interesting, albeit in terms of what takes place behind the scenes rather than in open session. But once the British contingent returns to London it will have to divert its attention, at least briefly, from the dollar, the pound, the gold, the oil and the rest of the world to a new target for domestic monetary growth.

The setting of a new target on this occasion is, moreover, going to be something of a novelty. It will be the first time that a twelve-month target has been set in the middle of a financial year, and not at the end of the year, as has been the case for some time.

The problem is, indeed, as suggested, largely optional. Certainly, money-watchers are going to continue to look at twelve monthly trends in the money supply and to take twelve monthly forecasts as a guide to the rate of official growth. But the effect of setting the target every six months

‘It will be the first time that a 12-month target for domestic monetary growth has been set in the middle of a financial year’

must be to concentrate attention on the first six months of a new target when it is five and the basis of the authorities' market operations, rather than the second six months when yet another new target may well have rendered it obsolete.

Now the idea of introducing "rolling" targets, as they are called, was to give the authorities more flexibility in monetary management. Specifically, it had two aims—to ease the problem of the authorities' feeling compelled to meet a target at the end of the financial year, and as a result, exposing themselves to the risk of the market frustrating them; and to allow them to make more frequent changes to their monetary stance in response to changed circumstances.

The key to this particular financial year, then, must be what the authorities consider to be "changed circumstances". The problem, however, is that these must presumably take in at least two strands.

The first, quite obviously, must be any change in general economic conditions, or planned changes in economic direction. The second must be the performance of the monetary aggregates over the first few months of the present target period.

Taking the second consideration first, the main surprise at the time of the target was set with a rather different situation.

MONETARY GROWTH				
Domestic Credit Expansion	£m	Sterling M3	Sterling M3 growth	Target 1978
1975/76	+5,069	+2,453	8.0	—
1976/77	+4,934	+2,828	7.8	9-13
1977/78	+3,799	+1,164	16.0	9-13
1978/79*	+1,281	+573	3.8	8-12

\* 1978/79 figures are after the first four months of the year. The percentage rate of growth has been annualized but probably understates the trend.

## Putting World Bank lending back in balance

Washington

There is clearly something wrong when the foremost international aid organization, the World Bank, is expanding its loans in the wealthiest developing countries at a faster pace than to the very poorest ones. An examination of the bank's activities and its balance sheet suggests that new approaches need to be adopted in its policies and that its basic articles of agreement ought to be revised.

For more than a decade the bank has been led by Mr Robert McNamara, who on Monday will open its annual meeting with a forceful appeal for a sharp increase in its capital. As he addresses officials from the bank's 132 member governments the United States Congress will be competing legislation that will have a direct effect on the bank's future.

The World Bank group consists of three main branches—the bank itself, which provides loans at almost market related rates; the International Development Association, which provides highly concessional loans; and the International Finance Corporation, which provides loans only to private enterprises in developing countries.

The world's poorest nations cannot afford the loans made by the bank, or are they able to qualify to any significant degree for funds from the IFC. These countries are almost solely dependent upon International Development Association loans.

The richest countries regularly replenish the IDA's funds and to make its plans the World Bank group must have a clear idea some years ahead of the sort of funds it will have available for lending.

To the case of the development association the situation is now critical, because not only is the United States behind schedule in making its payments, but Congress appears to be increasingly reluctant to increase American contributions.

The Carter Administration asked for \$1,500m in appropriations for the IDA. In the next few days Congress will decide on this request and the association will be fortunate if only \$250m of this is cut.



Mr Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, he will open its annual meeting on Monday with a forceful appeal for a sharp increase in its capital.

This says that the outstanding volume of bank loans may not exceed the sum of the bank's capital plus reserves. Within a year or two the bank will have made so many loans that it will have reached this limit.

The bank's present capital and reserves stand at about \$35,300m. It hopes to make loans in the current year of \$6,800m, but its directors say that this will have to be cut if progress is made soon on sharply increasing the bank's capital. For the bank to make a further five-year plan it is vital that the capital should be at least doubled.

Congress is certainly in no mood to appropriate the funds to ensure a doubling of the bank's capital or even a significant increase in it, and it does not want to see the American shareholding in the bank decline from its present 22 per cent level, which would be necessary if other nations, indeed to provide the bank with more capital than the United States does.

In fact, the bank, which because of the inadequacy of IDA funds, has helped to enlarge the gap between the very poorest and the middle-income developing countries, is now moving towards a position where it may actually have to cut its even nominal terms of assistance to this latter group. When the position is viewed in this light, the solution seems fairly obvious, although it is remarkable that so far they have been given scant attention.

### Reputation

Firstly, the clear alternative to a capital increase to ensure the bank's lending is a change in the bank's articles. The articles of the International Monetary Fund were changed and there is no reason why the bank's articles could not be given a similar update.

The bank could, for example, be allowed to make loans equal to double its total capital. Such a move would, in effect, lead to a doubling in the bank's lending without the need for any new appropriations by the United States Congress.

Such a measure would not damage the bank's high standing in the credit markets. In its 32-year life the bank has won a high reputation for financial prudence, which has been supplemented by its determined effort to keep its holdings of liquid assets equal to fully 40 per cent of its outstanding debt.

A second strategy would be to extend thirty or forty-year loans to the poorest countries. At present, because of American insistence, the bank limits its loans to 20 years. Longer maturities would make it easier for poor countries to borrow and there is no reason why the bank should lose money as a result. It should be borne in mind that neither the IDA, or the bank have ever suffered a loss over a loan.

These matters need to be raised in next week's annual meeting, as should such questions as the importance of human rights considerations in bank lending policies, the salaries of bank employees and the possibility of enabling some countries to make conditional loans and contributions to the World Bank group.

Frank Vogl

### Africa

For the world's very poorest countries the shortage of IDA funds produces chronic problems. The nations of western Africa, for example, which have a total population of more than 150 million and an average annual income per head of less than \$300, received total funds from the World Bank group last year of just \$509.3m. This is less than the combined loans made by the bank to such relatively prosperous countries as Yugoslavia and Romania.

The poorest countries are in need of a crash programme directly aimed at strengthening their labour and management skills, whereby their ability to absorb more outside financing will be increased.

The shortage of funds for these countries, coupled with the low quality of many of their public and private sector leaders, at present makes their prospects bleak. Worse still, it now appears that the terms of trade for a number of the countries are deteriorating.

But Congress does not seem

John Whitmore

## Business Diary: Who's who at NCB

Revelations about happiness over pay and pensions among members of the National Coal Board appear to have ruffled a few feathers at Robert House, so I apologise in advance for the further incoherence which follows.

The Government's indecision in implementing the Boyle report on tax salaries has led the deputy chairman, Sir David Eccles, and the board member for marketing, Donald Davies, to decline new contracts, has evidently spread to a vexed question of who will run the industry.

According to the rumour story at 222 Euston Road, the man known as the head of the National Union of Workers—Eccles' Secretary to Ben has offered Sir David another two-year contract as chairman of the Coal Board.

Mr Eccles, whose present contract expires next June, is said to be unhappy with this offer, preferring either a straight five-year appointment or pastures new. He says, but, taking the view that the political uncertainties of the day, Benn says that it would be wrong to saddle a possible incoming administration with a fiscal appointment for such a long period.

That is the strongest runner in the rumour stakes at present, but there are others, at least one of which is being talked of in the corridors of the Board. It is said that Sir David Eccles is being talked of in the corridors of the Board. It is said that Sir David Eccles is being talked of in the corridors of the Board.



After Sir Derek? Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason.

for a successor to Joe Cornley as president of the NCB, this is plainly no time to allow the board to take off for Robert House.

After the so-so performance of Britain's athletes in the recent Commonwealth and European games, it was not surprising to hear that our small team of apprentices—Government-supported for the first time—has had its best year in the Skill Olympics since 1970.

The team of 10 has just returned from Pusan, in South Korea, with gold medals in bricklaying and plastering, silver medals in plumbing and engineering, and a real surprise this—a bronze medal in hand-dressing. Last year's haul was just one bronze.

The International Apprenticeship Competition, which this year covered 32 trades and attracted competitors from 16 countries, was first held in 1953. Britain's entry is organized by the Society for the Promotion of Vocational Training and Education, which is supported by private industry—people like Shell—and the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and industrial training boards.

Not surprisingly, taking a team to Korea stretched the resources of the society, which was pleased to accept the offer of a three-year grant through the Department of Employment.

As in most of our home advantage helps, Britain's best year was in 1965 when the olympics were held in Glasgow and nine gold medals were won.

## Golden apprentices

Hopes are high for next year, when the competition will be held in the Irish Republic—as for the first time for many workers in the building trade.

George Holliday and Ray O'Toole, respectively the supervisor and chief cashier of the latest Thomas Cook bureau de change, have found that the group's absorption by Midland Bank has not led to any softening of the undomitable spirit which sent Cook's men to the British writ run and then some.

The company has placed them in a bureau where yesterday the sun beat down amid the palm trees, strange smells of fried fish and a babel of unfamiliar tongues perplexed the ears. I refer, of course, to Leicester Square.

Cook's have opened a bureau in the Midland Bank branch, which in turn is in part of the old AA building. It is the first Cook's bureau to open in a Midland Bank, although there are many others in department stores, railway stations and cross-channel ferries.

I asked Bernard Norman, a Cook's assistant managing director, how long it would be before a counter selling Cook's holidays would crop up in this or any other Midland Bank—the thing travel agents everywhere have been dreading. There is, for example, a large unlit room next door to the bureau de change in Leicester Square.

Norman said little but left me in no doubt that his firm means business. Cook's cannot

Ross Davies

## Tioxide

### Statement of unaudited results for the half year to 30 June 1978

Half Year to 30 June 1977	Half Year to 30 June 1978	Half Year to 30 June 1978
£m	£m	£m
76.64	61.31	External Sales
1.80	3.31	Tioxide & Subsidiaries
		Associated Companies—attributable share
		67.66
12.35	0.85	Profit/(loss) before Taxation
(1.74)	(0.72)	Tioxide & Subsidiaries
		Associated Companies
10.61	0.73	Taxation
6.05	0.25	Tioxide & Subsidiaries
		Associated Companies
4.36	(0.18)	Profit/(loss) after Taxation
0.29	0.18	Minority Interests
4.27	(0.36)	0.70
	1.54	Extraordinary Items
4.27	1.18	Attributable to Shareholders
		0.70

The value of goods exported from the U.K., including intra-group sales was £12.79 million.

Income and expenditure of overseas subsidiary and associated companies have been converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of each period. Changes in the sterling values of the Holding Company's interest in overseas companies, arising from exchange fluctuations, have been excluded from profits.

For the first half of 1978 the taxation charge consists of £0.47 million U.K. Corporation Tax (calculated at 32%) and £1.23 million Overseas Tax. The overall taxation charge for the Group is distorted by reason of non-relevant losses in an associated company. These losses are available for relief against its future profits.

Trading conditions continued to be difficult during the first half of 1978. Prices have shown some improvement recently, but cost reduction is the main contributor to the improved results compared with July-December 1977. It is not expected that this factor will play so significant a part in the results for the second half year, when sales are also normally at a lower rate. The task of achieving prices to give satisfactory margins remains a major priority.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Modest recovery, buyers come in

For the first hour or so yesterday it looked as if Tuesday's drift to little or no business would continue. But dealers found themselves short of stock as one or two small buyers came in, and a modest recovery was seen.

Background influences more, or less cancelled each other out. The renewed setback on Wall Street induced caution as did reversals in other stock markets around the world. Hongkong for example has shed a hundred points on the Hang Seng

Rediffusion rose 1p to 102p amid gentle relief with the Price Commission verdict on television renters. Apart from this, it could be that market is picking up. One competitor there has withdrawn from business and Rediffusion has put up prices. The impact of this next year (but not in the current one) could be big.

index in a day or two. Continued pay worries also made for caution, but the strength of sterling encouraged confidence.

On the gilt-edged pitch there was a string of small rises despite United States interest rate worries. The taps overhung existing stocks but the market will probably not get worried by the lack of aggressive Government funding for a fortnight or so.

Yields on long dated stock are still reckoned tempting. But after the official close there were small falls in "shorts".

At all events the FT index slipped a point in the morning but was already 2.1 up at noon. By the close the gain was 3.9 (0.7 per cent) to 529.1.

Among leaders ICI mirrored the mood with a 3p gain to 400p. The past quarterly figures were up to expectations, and one of two brokers are turning cautiously bullish. Lucas banded 5p to 330p while GEC was good for a 7p rise to 339p. Beecham went up 5p to 735p and Unilever rose 2p to 574p.

The Price Commission ver-

dict on television renters seems to have singled out the efficient Thorn and Electronic Rentals as to freeze their rentals to next April but Thora wants to talk about this and its efficiency to the Minister. In the end, Thora actually rose 8p to 385p but Electronic Rentals slipped 1p to 142p. Both Granada at 224p and Henry Wigfall at 255p were unchanged.

Second thoughts about Bank of Scotland's fall in profits were kinder than the first on Tuesday. The shares rallied 8p to 288p. Gains of 2p were duly seen in Barclays and National Westminster, as well as in Midland and Lloyds. In merchant banks Kleinwort Benson lost 2p to 106p on its mid-term report.

Eagle Star mildly disappointed observers in composite insurances, revealing a first-half underwriting loss. But hopes of a recovery had the shares unchanged at 148p at the close. General Accident hardened 2p to 224p and Phoenix was 4p better at 260p.

International Thomson Organ-

profits slump and gloomy statement knocked Rowntree 18p to 425p after a 27p slump at one stage. William Baird eased 2p to 188p. It has a stake in Dawson International, now formulating merger with Haggas. Details are expected today by some.

Dawson holders hope for a new company free from dividend restraint and Haggas supporters hope that the details will improve their shares a value of up to 175p.

Revived bid gossip bad Matthew Clark up 6p to 48p at one stage, and ahead of figures on Monday Tarmac put on 5p to 151p. The tug of war in EMI had the "bombed out" theory winning. The shares rose 2p to 170p.

Figures in the next few days saw Bejam 4p up at 132p and good results put Ricardo (Engineers) 1p firmer at 313p. Euro-Ferries rallied 3p to 140p on further consideration of more sedate progress at half time. BP and Shell regained small falls after the Bingham report and early weakness. Spear & Jackson shed 9p to 136p reflecting the poor interim but a one-for-one scrip issue

and good profits had Burns-

Anderson up 4p to 571p. Hopes of a statement had keenly courted Bourne & Hollingsworth, 29p up at 315p. After hours Raybeck announced an agreed cash bid of 235p. Ferguson Industrial Holdings reports that it is talking bid to Randalls; earlier Randalls shares rose 4p to 88p.

Bellhaven rested at 50p. But many wonder what will happen to the 7.5p stake if the Monopolies Commission allows the merger with Allied Breweries to go ahead. A lot of people expect a bid but others are cautious. Bellhaven is the latest form of a group which has had several shapes in recent years, besides qualified accounts. The real ale fashion has done it much good, but it has little else behind it.

Equity turnover on September 19 was £72.13m (16,925 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph were ICI, GEC, BAT, Beecham, Turner and Newall, Thorne, Marks and Spencer, GKN and Bourne and Hollingsworth.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Flo	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Brixton Estate (I)	18.1(15.9)	1.12(1.17)	1.38(1.33)	4/11	—	—
Burns Anderson (F)	2.0(1.6)	0.52(0.43)	11.2(7.0)	1.2(1.1)	6/11	1.61(1.45)
I. Dickie (I)	2.0(1.6)	0.19(0.21)	—	2.4(2.1)	—	—
Dickson-Robinson (I)	219.8(215.3)	9.5(9.3)	8.4(8.7)	2.8(2.5)	6/11	—
Ferry Pickering (F)	5.7(4.6)	0.95(0.78)	10.6(8.7)	1.4(1.5)	13/11	2.8(2.8)
Anthony Gibbs (I)	—	0.01(0.01)	0.16(2.25)	0.71(0.71)	17/11	—
Eastbourne (I)	0.31(0.24)	—	0.5(0.5)	10/11	—	—
Harris & Sheldon (I)	20.6(18.1)	1.3(1.2)	—	1.5(1.4)	9/11	—
Hestair (I)	29.5(25.1)	0.42(1.8)	1.3(6.1)	2.3(2.1)	2/1/79	—
Kielow, Ben, Lon (I)	—	—	—	1.8(1.85)	10/11	—
Laporte (I)	80.5(74.8)	4.7(7.0)	4.65(8.58)	3.02(2.7)	27/11	(6.7)
Leadhall Ster (I)	4.3(4.0)	0.40(0.29)	11.4(8.1)	1.9(1.5)	3/1/79	—
J. McEneaney (I) (A)	88.6(78.0)	1.7(1.3)	—	1.27(1.18)	8/1/79	—
Molins (I)	52.1(43.4)	5.1(2.8)	8.9(4.7)	—	—	—
Plantation Bldgs	—	1.2(2.5)	1.3(3.2)	0.40(0.6)	15/11	—
Rio Tinto-Zinc (I)	372.5(380.4)	122.6(146.1)	15.80(16.79)	3.8(3.5)	—	—
Rowntree Mack (I)	231.9(188.1)	12.5(11.8)	—	4.5(2.7)	4/1/79	—
Spear & Jackson (I) (A)	21.2(21.1)	0.88(1.0)	7.4(8.5)	3.5(3.5)	5/1/79	—
Tibury Contr (I)	20.6(16.3)	0.59(0.89)	23.38(21.9)	6.0(6.0)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on 10p per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish monthly the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a 26 weeks. b 24 weeks.

Standard Chartered goes it alone

Reflecting the expansion of its merchant banking horizons, Standard Chartered is breaking its seven-year joint venture in Singapore with Arbuthnot Latham to operate as a separate entity.

Standard has now decided that its ambitions in this important centre of its operations make it difficult to operate with minority partners. The bank has received a licence from the Singapore authorities to establish a new subsidiary with an issued share capital of (Singapore) \$20m

Hartebeestfontein

Hartebeestfontein Gold Mining made working profits of R68.3m (£40.7m) in the year to

end of June, against R37.7m last year. The average gold price received was \$176 an ounce, \$42.40 ounce more than in 1977.

The expansion by 20 per cent of the capacity of the uranium plant is expected to be finished in two years at a cost of R5.5m, while the new sulphuric acid plant will be operational nine months ahead of schedule in the first half of 1979.

GKN's £4m purchase of hardware group

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds has agreed terms for the takeover of a public, unlisted company, Stern Osmat, valuing it at £4m cash. The takeover is con-

ditional on not being referred to the Monopolies Commission. Stern distributes hardware and also operates cash-and-carry centres for these products, mainly in Southern England.

Leadhall Sterling to improve

Together with a small, supplementary payment for 1977, Leadhall Sterling, is paying a total dividend of 2.58p gross for the first half of 1978. This compares with the interim for 1977 of 2.51p. Estimated figures for the six months to June 30 show pre-tax profits up from £293,000 to £404,000 on turnover of £4.35m, against £3.07m. The second-half's profits should

show a "modest improvement" on the first's. The year's total gross dividend is expected to be up 10 per cent on 1977's payment.

UK money broker to trade in Tokyo

Astley & Pearce, one of the two leading British money brokers, will start trading in Tokyo on October 2, becoming the first foreign firm allowed to deal in Japan. Conditional permission was granted in April, but sponsorship had to be obtained from at least 34 banks, including all 14 city banks. The firm was able to obtain sponsorship from 44 banks.

Brixton Est confirms property upturn

By Ray Maughan

The complexities of property accounting have left their mark on Brixton Estates. The group's success in letting properties in the course of construction has obviously cut the level of development interest which can be capitalized and consequently earnings in the six months to end-June last climbed from £154m to £222m after a small rise in establishment costs.

Benefits of a rise in net rental income from £256m to £344m at the halfway stage have thus been offset by pre-tax revenue was slightly down at £1.12m.

The comparable figures included a £147,000 dealing profit and although Brixton gained nothing on dealing during the first six months, a profit of £350,000 has been taken since June.

While pure conservatism has taken the gloss off the latest results, Brixton is expecting another period of strong revolutionary growth next year and there is enough buoyancy in the current letting market to confirm the increasingly held view that the property industry is continuing. Some 1m sq ft of the Dunstable development has now been let, construction of a further 180,000 sq ft will be completed by next March and a similar footage has now been approved for completion next December.

Guns fail to halt Harris & Sheldon

By Tony May

What there has been of a consumer boom has passed by Harris & Sheldon, which makes a wide range of quality consumer and capital goods. Even so it has kept profits creeping ahead and the six months to June 30 has produced an 8.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £13.7m and Mr J. D. Miller, the chairman, will be disappointed if profits for the full year are less than the record £3.4m achieved last year.

The group would be in better shape were it not for losses at the Webber & Scott sporting guns, air rifles and pistols offshoot. Over the full year losses here are expected to reach £1m.

The group invested heavily on the company with an eye on the US market, but currency fluctuations and the recession have made it hard to reap any benefit. The work force has been cut by 45 per cent and the group is looking hard for new markets.

Shareholders are to collect an interim dividend of 2.55p against 2.13p last year, a little chance of their getting more than a 10 per cent increase for the full year.

BURNS-ANDERSON

Turnover for year to June 30, £13.1m (£15.9m). Pre-tax profit, £621,000 (£9,000). Earnings a share, 11.2p (7p). Net asset value a share, 62.4p (48.3p). One-for-one scrip. Dividend is 2.4p gross (2.19p).

Take a look at South Glamorgan's V.I.P.'s



We have some Very Impressive People based in South Glamorgan. To name-drop a few - National Panasonic, Wilkinson Sword, B.P. Chemicals, Wiggins Teape, The Radiochemical Centre, G.K.N.

And Ford with their new £250 million engine plant. These major industries have all benefited by the Vigorous Industrial Progress made in this go ahead County.

Now the Government is spending an extra £13 million over the next three years providing 4 million square feet of Advance Factories with two years free rental and other valuable incentives.

South Glamorgan is the closest Development Area to London with excellent labour resources and an outstanding record of industrial relations.

It all adds up to a Very Impressive Package for you the Industrialist.

Why not join the V.I.P.'s in South Glamorgan? We'll give you all the help we can.

South Glamorgan - the V.I.P. county  
Contact: Rhodri Morgan, Industrial Development Officer, County Headquarters, Telephone 0222 499022.

Paper and packaging upturn helps Molins in rebound

By Christopher Wilkins

Molins, the precision engineering group, has bounced back strongly from the setback it suffered during 1977. First-half profits of £5.1m are nearly double the £2.8m of the comparable period last year and are well up on the £4.1m of the year before.

Much of the improvement is due to a turnaround by the paper and packaging machinery business, which in the first-half last year made a loss of £800,000. As a result of cut-backs in the work force and an overhaul of the product range the losses were reduced in the second half of last year and the board was forecasting at least break even this year.

But already in the first-half this division has contributed profits of £500,000. The American-based Langston subsidiary has particularly



Sir Harry Moore, chairman of Molins.

Increased profits, while at home Masson Scott Thissell made a small trading profit.

The order book is improving and Molins feels the range is now much more positive.

The dominant tool machinery division, accounted for 70 per cent of the £52.1m turnover, has been showing impressive growth, however. After a lively dull performance year, when trading profits from £10.5m to £10.7m, tool machinery has turned in a half profit of £5.3m, as much of a quarter compared year ago.

Molins' profits have to be weighed towards second half recently but Harry says that this year should be "a much more apportionment of profit between the first and second years". In the City profit close to £12m are expected to £8.3m and a 1978 of £10.5m. The shares unchanged last night at

Hestair meets half-time setbacks on three fronts

By Rosemary Unsworth

Three simultaneous setbacks brought Hestair's pre-tax profits crashing to £423,000 for the six months to July 31, 1978, compared with a record £1.8m for the same period last year.

The industrial group was hit by a worldwide recession in farming equipment which reduced demand for its products by half, according to chairman Mr David Hargreaves. "The recession seriously affected the Roor Harvesters companies which were acquired last year and which were poorly placed competitively. Although production capacity has been reduced and the product development programme stepped up, Mr Hargreaves estimates that the division, originally expected to produce 33 per cent of group profits, will not contribute to profits at all this year.

Hestair's division was also hit as its export markets, the oil producing countries of the Middle East and Nigeria, which are tied to the dollar, did not place orders with the

group until later than usual. Although Hestair's toy subsidiary, Kidicraft, had a successful first half, Hestair Toys' performance was not improved by the contribution from the commercial stationary and jigsaw companies. "Jigsaw demand has fallen leaving us with surplus stock and very poor margins while the traditional role of a middle-man has been whittled away," explained Mr Hargreaves. He expects to make an announcement about the company's future within the next three weeks.

"The second half should be a great deal better than the first with the farm equipment's best months coming in November, December and January when we usually make 60 per cent of our profits", he said.

An interim dividend of 3.5p gross has been declared compared with 3.19p last year, "as a measure of confidence". The total dividend should be raised to 10.26p as forecast at the time of the rights issue in June.

Ferguson now seeking Randalls

Ferguson Industrial H. is holding negotiations: may lead to an offer for whole of the share cap Randalls group.

The potential bidder holds a 10.8 per cent stake in Randalls. Capitalized at £1.5m, Randalls has been a market this week and is trading at a peak for the of 84p. It would appear to have the acquisition of gusoo through the distr. electrical supplies.

Randalls' record ever, was blotted last year with a loss of £285,000 although some £190,000 deficit was contribut operations since term Meanwhile Ferguson's sheet was strengthened this year when it sold to Thomas Tilling.

The £1m proceeds, F chairman Mr Denis explained at the time used to cut bank bor

Rowntree Mackintosh

Interim Report for the 24 weeks to 17th June, 1978

	Interim Results	Full Year
	1978 £'000	1977 £'000
Turnover	231,900	188,100
Trading Profit	15,515	14,237
Interest paid less Investment Income	3,001	2,233
Profit before Taxation	12,514	12,004
Taxation	6,550	6,250
Profit after Taxation	5,964	5,754
Minority Interests	530	750
Profit attributable to Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd. before Extraordinary Items	5,434	5,004
		18,190

Notes:

- The unaudited interim figures above should be read in conjunction with the Chairman's Statement below.
- Sales and profits of overseas subsidiary companies have been translated into sterling at the respective half year and year end exchange rates.
- Pending publication of a Statement of Standard Accounting Practice for deferred taxation, tax has been provided at 52% on UK profits; overseas tax amounts to £0.90m (1977 £1.52m).
- Extraordinary items will arise in the year consisting principally of adjustments on translation of overseas net assets into sterling; at 17th June, 1978 these items would have amounted to a total credit of £2.1m.

Chairman's Statement

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 4.50p per share (1977 2.75p per share). This will absorb £2,430,000 and will be payable on 4th January, 1979 to Ordinary Shareholders registered at the close of business on 6th December, 1978. It is the Board's intention, subject to unforeseen circumstances, to recommend the payment of a total dividend of 13p per share for the year.

Trading Results

Group sales turnover in the first half of 1978 was £232m, 23% higher than in the first half of 1977. The proportion of sales turnover arising outside the UK was 47%, the same as in the previous year, although Exports from the UK have been less buoyant.

The growth of turnover was accompanied by satisfactory growth in volume and market shares. Trading profits at £15.515m were 9% higher than the first half of 1977. Interest charges showed an increase in line with the larger borrowings resulting from the higher levels of capital expenditure and working capital. Profit before tax at £12.514m is 4% up on last year's first half.

Outlook

The higher sales and market shares have been achieved in a particularly competitive trading environment, as was envisaged in the last annual report. Inevitably this means acceptance of somewhat lower trading margins.

This marketing investment is being accompanied by heavy fixed asset investment and this year's programme, amounting to some £40m, is progressing well. Both forms of investment are important for the long term future of the Group. The Board expects that against this background, and subject to present economic and industrial uncertainties, the year's profit, after higher interest charges, will show further progress though at a more modest rate than in recent years.

Donald Barron, Chairman

Confectionery

KIT KAT - QUALITY STREET - SMARTIES - POLLS - BLACK MAGIC - GOOD NEWS - ROWNTREE'S PASTILLES  
AFTER EIGHT - WEEK-END - AERO - ROLD - BABY BOX - TUFFO - MATCHMAKERS - JELLYTOTS - WALNUT WHIPS - YONK

Grocery

BLUE IRISAND - BREAKAWAY - PAN YAN PICKLES - TABLE JELLIES - SUN PAT NUTS - PEANUT BUTTER







## MARKET REPORTS

**COPPER:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

**SILVER:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

**LEAD:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

## Commodities

**WHEAT:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

**SOYABEANS:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

**CORN:** Cash, wire, bars and three months' contracts were all higher. The cash price rose 10p to 174.50, three months' 174.50, and six months' 174.50. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 174.50 for cash, 174.50 for three months, and 174.50 for six months. The New York market was also higher, with cash at 174.50, three months' at 174.50, and six months' at 174.50.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	10%
Barclays Bank	10%
BCCI Bank	10%
Consolidated Crds	10%
C. Hoare & Co	10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
London Mercantile	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster	10%
Rossminster	10%
TSB	10%
Williams and Glyn's	10%

\* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 9% a year. \* 12 month deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 9% a year.

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

1977/78	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yld	P/E
71	29	29	Airsprung Ord	71	5.5	7.7	9.3
203	106	106	Armstrong 181 ULS	195	18.5	9.4	—
46	25	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	43rd	3.6	8.3	7.8
180	105	105	Bardon Hill	180	12.0	6.7	8.9
143	51	51	Deborah Ord	143	5.6	3.9	8.8
240	105	105	Deborah 171	240	17.5	7.2	—
147	120	120	Frederick Parker	130	12.4	9.5	5.1
153	135	135	George Blair	153	15.0	8.8	3.7
58	35	35	Jackson Group	58	5.0	6.5	—
116	35	35	James Burroughs	116	6.5	5.7	10.6
340	188	188	Robert Jenkins	310	29.7	9.6	5.1
24	9	9	Twinkl Ord	20	—	—	18.3
82	54	54	Twinkl 12% ULS	78	12.0	15.3	—
83	54	54	Unilock Holdings	83	7.4	8.9	8.9
120	67	67	Walter Alexander	120	7.2	6.0	7.4

## Eagle Star Half-year figures

**Dividend**  
The Directors have declared an interim dividend for 1978 of 3.35p per share (1977 3.0p per share). An additional amount of 0.0474p per share (applicable to the final dividend for 1977) will also be paid as a result of the reduction in the rate of tax credit from 34/66ths to 33/67ths.

**Estimated Half-Yearly Results**  
Premium income, excluding life, has increased by 20 per cent. Estimated and unaudited results for the six months ended 30th June 1978 together with comparable figures for the first half year of 1977 and those for the full year 1977 are shown below. We have always stressed that results at the half year cannot be taken as providing a reliable indication of those for the full year. This will be particularly the case in the current year as there is an improving trend in the U.K.

	Estimated six months to 30th June	1977	Actual Year 1977
Premium income (excluding life)	195.1	162.9	315.0
Investment income	23.1	18.9	38.5
Growthwood Securities	4.8	2.8	7.2
Share of associated companies' profits	0.3	0.8	1.0
Underwriting	(9.0)	(3.4)	(4.3)
Shareholders' life profits	4.0	3.5	8.0
	23.2	22.6	50.4
Less contributions to pension funds etc.	(4.3)	(3.1)	(6.9)
Surplus before taxation and minority interests	18.9	19.5	43.5

**Investments**  
Investment income at £23.1m shows an increase of 22 per cent.

**Growthwood Securities:**  
Growthwood Securities continues to prosper. Its contribution to Group profits is £4.8m, an increase of more than 70 per cent over the same period last year. In previous years the greater part of the year's profits arose during the second six months but the pattern has now changed to a more even distribution over the year.

**Underwriting**  
As a large part of our business is in the U.K. our results are greatly affected by conditions in the home market. During the first quarter of 1978 our experience, in common with that reported by other companies, was particularly bad. This arose in the main from the persistently severe weather conditions which affected most classes of business and particularly from damage attributable to two major storms in January for which £1m was provided in last year's account. Further losses have been met in part out of internal reinsurance funds. As a result of severe competition Marine and Aviation business continues to be very difficult. The 1977 underwriting account to be closed at the end of this year is unprofitable although the strong provisions made in earlier years are not fully required.

**Life**  
New sums assured for the 6 months totalled £1,159m (£577m in the same period for 1977) of which £981m (£451m) arose in the U.K. The corresponding increase in new U.K. single premiums was 31 per cent and yearly premiums 63 per cent.

**Eagle Star Insurance Co. Ltd.,**  
1 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2.  
Branches/Everywhere

## Discount market

The Bank of England gave help on a large scale to relieve a shortage of funds on Lombard Street yesterday. The Bank bought a large amount of Treasury bills and a small number of local authority bills directly from the discount houses.

## Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 10%  
Overnight High Rate 10%  
Treasury Bills 10%  
Local Authority 10%  
Commercial 10%

## Recent Issues

Company	Amount	Price	Yield
British Telecom	£1,000m	105.00	10.50%
British Airways	£1,000m	105.00	10.50%
British Petroleum	£1,000m	105.00	10.50%
British Steel	£1,000m	105.00	10.50%
British Overseas Airways	£1,000m	105.00	10.50%

## Wall Street

New York, Sept. 20.—Stocks declined in moderately active trading for the seventh straight session after an attempt at a rally succumbed to worries about rising interest rates.

## Silver closes 12 cents higher

SILVER: Futures closed 12 cents higher on the London market. The price of silver rose to 174.50 per ounce, up from 173.50. The price of gold was also higher, rising to 1,159 per ounce, up from 1,150. The price of copper was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of lead was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of zinc was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of tin was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of nickel was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of cobalt was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of manganese was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of iron was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of steel was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of aluminum was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of magnesium was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of silicon was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of titanium was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of vanadium was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of chromium was 174.50, up from 173.50. The price of nickel was 174.50, up from 173.50. 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## Property



Grange, at Great Bowden, near Market Harborough, Leicestershire, for sale at £75,000.

Unusual methods of division

Outside are a number of ancillary buildings, and a feature of the garden is a swimming pool with solar panels for heating. In all, the property runs to just over eight acres, and further land is available if required. The price is £135,000 and the agents are Cooke and Arkwright of Cardiff.

Much history goes with Wickhampton Manor, at Wickhampton, near Evesham, Worcestershire. The house is basically Elizabethan, but the property had earlier monastic associations when the manor was held by the Abbey of Evesham.

Both the houses and a 13th century circular stone dovecote in the grounds have a grade two listing as being of special architectural or historic interest, and it is said that the original fireplace was dug by one of the Abbots.

Accommodation is extensive. Besides a reception hall, 40ft long, there are three other reception rooms and a study. Upstairs are a main bedroom, dressing room, and bathroom. There are two other guest suites with their own bedrooms, and three more bedrooms.

There is also a self-contained staff wing, as well as a four-roomed cottage, and a studio. The whole property extends to about 20 acres, including several paddocks.

Offers based on £120,000 are being asked through Chamberlaine Brothers and Edwards, of Chichester.

Mostly as extensive is the accommodation provided by Woodlands, at Cold Ash Hill, near Liphook, Hampshire, and this time in a house built some time in the 1930s.

It has, white-rendered walls with elm-boarded gables, all under a tiled roof. There are two main reception rooms, a morning room and a sun room. Upstairs there is a main bedroom, dressing room, and bathroom suite and a second bedroom and bathroom suite and four further bedrooms.

Outbuildings include a large garage block with a workshop, a room to the left. This block has potential for conversion to a separate cottage subject to planning permission. Garden around the house total about three acres and there is a five-acre field in addition.

Offers in the region of £145,000 are being asked through Walter Eggar of Guildford.

Gerald Ely

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land to live with some

period house of great character

with scope for further modern

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Baths, Oil C.H. Excellent block

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stabling and a separate range

of farm buildings, suitable for

conversion. Total 2 1/2

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years old with modern

extension, 3 reception,

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well kept walled garden

of about 1 acre. A

central hall, central

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driving road, dining room,

large kitchen, 2 full

size laundry, 1 full

size bathroom, 2 full

size bedrooms, 2 full

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BUSY CREATIVE

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